

FORT EGBERT AND THE EAGLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

summer-1977

Results of Archeological and Historic Research



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DECEMBER 1978

Prepared for the

**U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Fortymile Resource Area — Tok, Alaska**

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE	1. REPORT NO. BLM/AK/TR-78/02	2.	3. Recipient's Accession No.
4. Title and Subtitle FORT EGBERT AND THE EAGLE HISTORIC DISTRICT Results of Archeological and Historic Research Summer 1977			5. Report Date Prepared June 15, 1978 6.
7. Author(s) Anne D. Shinkwin, Elizabeth F. Andrews, Russell H. Sackett, Mary V. Kroul	8. Performing Organization Rept. No. IAB 77-6		
9. Performing Organization Name and Address Anthropology Program University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska 99701			10. Project/Task/Work Unit No. 11. Contract(C) or Grant(G) No. (C) YA-512-CT7-108 (G)
12. Sponsoring Organization Name and Address U. S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management 701 C Street, Box 13 Anchorage, Alaska 99513			13. Type of Report & Period Covered Technical Report 14.
15. Supplementary Notes			
16. Abstract (Limit: 200 words) Archeological field work and archival research relating to human occupation of the Eagle Historic District in Alaska, focusing on Fort Egbert in the vicinity of Eagle, were conducted during summer and fall 1977. Four square miles were intensively surveyed, including the fort and 72 sites located outside the fort core area and the city of Eagle. These prehistoric and historic localities document activities related to the occupation of the fort as well as a number of other cultural patterns representative of the prehistory and history of the area. Excavations were conducted at the Quartermaster's Stables at the fort in connection with the stabilization work being performed by the Bureau of Land Management. Structural remains as well as 9000+ artifacts were found. Historic research at the National Archives and Records Service and the University of Alaska archives focusing on the establishment, functioning, and demise of Fort Egbert was also undertaken during the summer. The results of archeological and historic research illustrate continuities as well as change in human adaptation in the district. These patterns are synthesized. Recommendations for management of cultural resources in the district are presented.			
17. Document Analysis a. Descriptors archeology; research, archival; ethnohistory; ethnology; cultural resource management archeology, salvage; cultural property, protection of b. Identifiers/Open-Ended Terms Eagle Historic District, Alaska; Fort Egbert, Alaska; Alaska, northeastern; Indians, Athapaskan (Athabascan); Fortymile River; Yukon River c. COSATI Field/Group			
18. Availability Statement USDI Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 701 C Street, Box 13 Anchorage, Alaska 99513		19. Security Class (This Report) 20. Security Class (This Page)	21. No. of Pages 485 22. Price \$2.50

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August 1978

The cover photograph, a view of Fort Egbert in 1907, is
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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The Eagle Historic District, including the city of Eagle and part of the former boundaries of Fort Egbert at Eagle¹, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 (Figs. 1, 2). Since 1975, most of the original Fort Egbert military reservation has been federally owned and managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

In fiscal year 1975, BLM received a Congressional appropriation for stabilization and planning activities in the Fort Egbert area. In the same year, the National Trust for Historic Preservation received a contract to develop a plan for preservation, stabilization, and restoration work. A preliminary evaluation was made in the summer of 1975 during a four-day visit to Fort Egbert by an architect, interpretive planners, a National Trust representative, and personnel from the National Park Service and BLM. The meeting was held to discuss overall strategy for cultural preservation at the fort and in the city. In addition, the historic architect returned to Eagle for most of the summer, accompanied by another architect, and the National Trust representative visited Eagle for two weeks studying historic records and evaluating the cultural resources of the city and the fort. An archeologist was contracted by BLM to make recommendations for archeological work at Fort Egbert based on two days of observations at the site (Sprague 1975). By late fall, the National Trust had prepared a preservation plan (National Trust n.d.) including specific recommendations for archeological work and preservation activities within the Fort Egbert area as well as the city of Eagle.

¹"Eagle" refers to the non-native community (city) near the confluence of Mission Creek and the Yukon River (Fig. 1). The native Athapaskan Indian settlement, three miles upstream on the Yukon River, is referred to in this report and in local usage as Eagle Village.

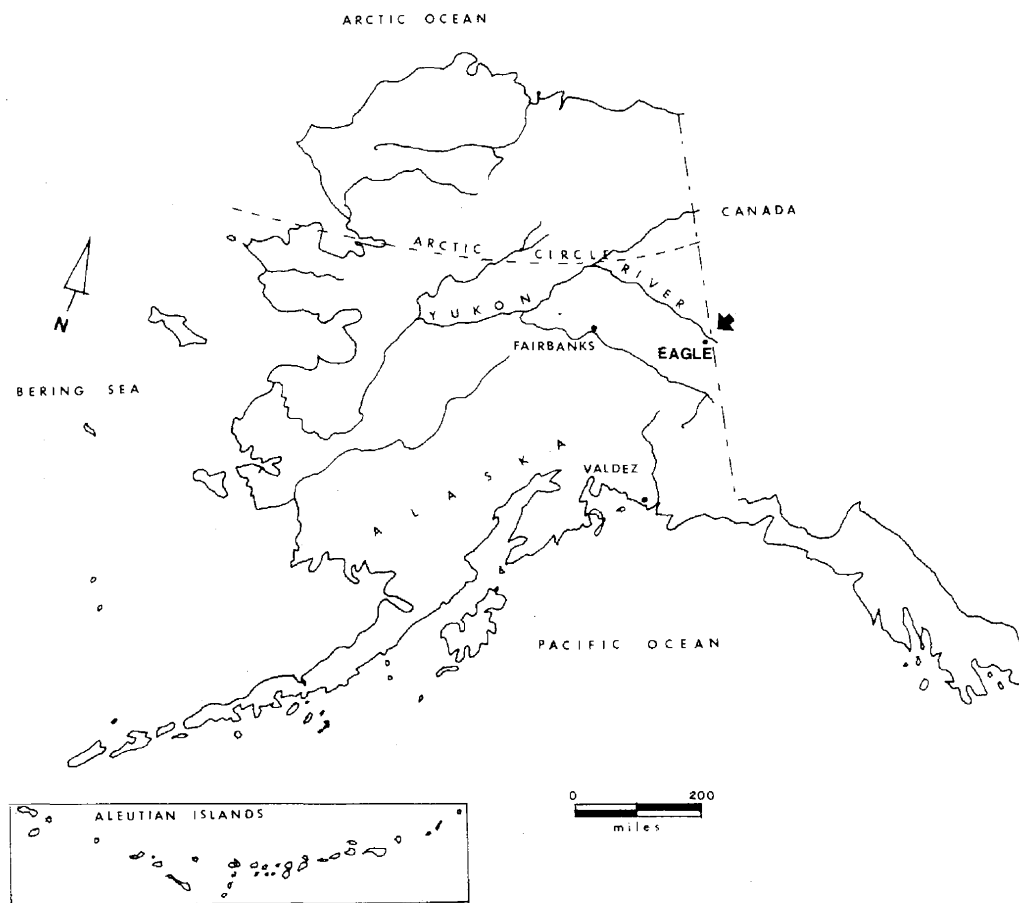


Fig. 1. Location of Eagle, Alaska.

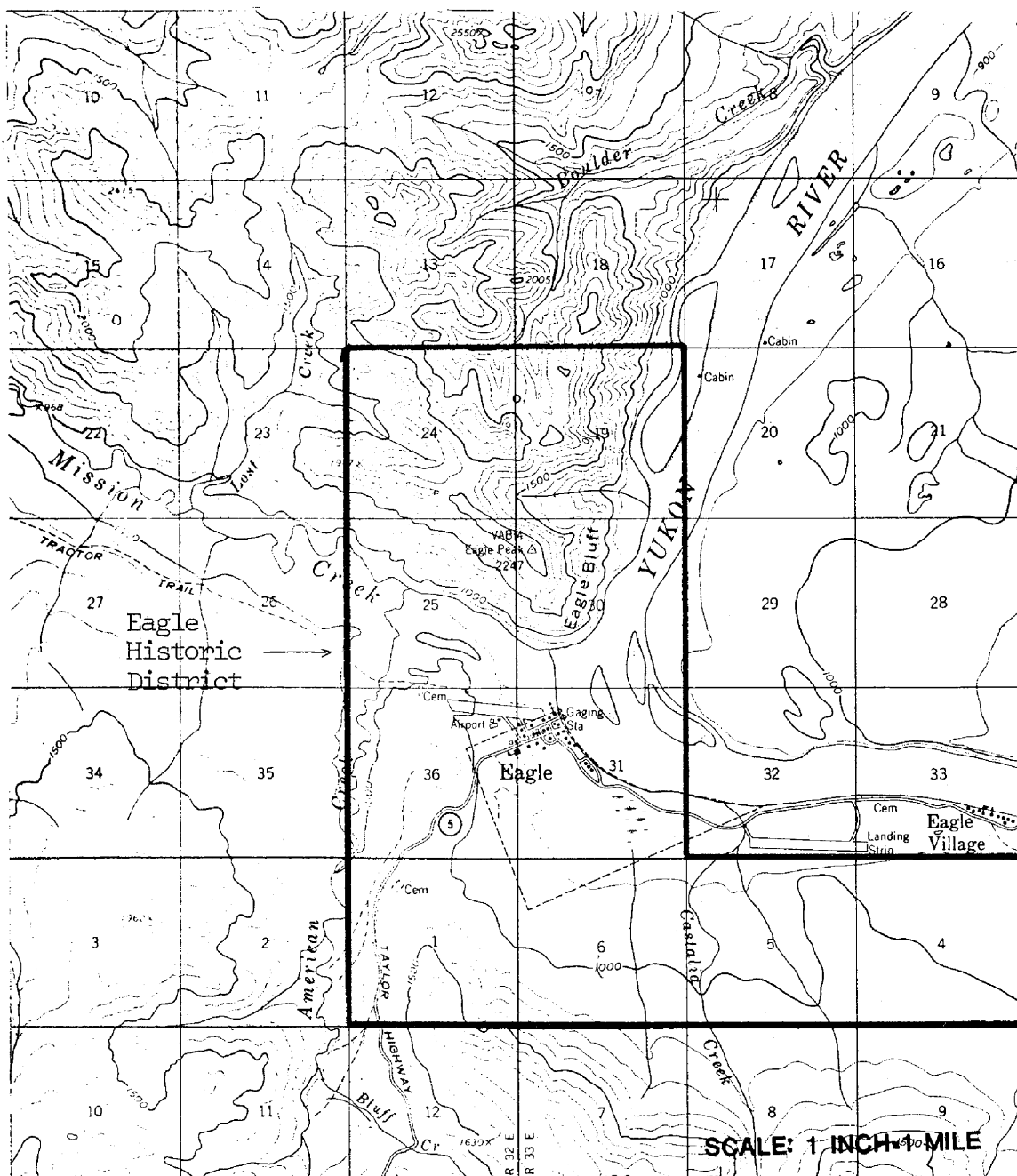


Fig. 2. Eagle Historic District.

Preservation activities were pursued at Fort Egbert by BLM during the summer of 1975, prior to any archeological work which should have, by law, preceded surface or sub-surface destruction at the site. Sprague (1975) documented these activities which took the form of excavation around the foundations of buildings. He noted that this action was particularly destructive since none of the buildings was in danger of collapse. The Alaska Road Commission, and later the State Highway Department, had occupied the site and had also disturbed areas adjacent to some of the structures prior to 1975 (National Trust n.d.:27). Sprague (1975:2) pointed out the importance of recognizing that activities related to construction can cause indirect impact since the use of heavy machinery on a site can result in the removal of artifacts from their primary context. He made a number of recommendations in terms of priority of archeological investigations at the fort. These will be discussed in the conclusions to this report. Stabilization and restoration activities continued in 1976 without additional subsurface destruction.

In 1977, plans for activities at the fort included completion of stabilization of one standing structure (Quartermaster's Stables). These restoration activities could not be pursued without an archeological clearance for work at the structure. A request for proposals for this work was advertised by BLM. The University of Alaska responded with a proposal which was accepted. The results of that research during summer 1977 are presented in this report.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The investigation was strictly defined by BLM. The objectives of the work were several: to review extant historic and anthropological literature on the district, focusing on Fort Egbert; to conduct a field survey of the district, excluding the city of Eagle; and to excavate the periphery of the building (Quartermaster's Stables) to be stabilized in order to provide clearance for continuing work at the building.

Historic research was to focus on the history of Fort Egbert and we were encouraged to explore various archival sources. The area of survey within the district was outlined in terms of ranked priorities. Methods of excavation and survey were specifically stated. Area of excavation, based on projected impact, and area of testing in disturbed

areas around the Stables were also defined. In addition, several questions about the Stables' structure and possibly related features (e.g., corral fence line, other structures in the area) were posed and were to be investigated.

As mentioned above, historic research was to focus on Fort Egbert, rather than the Eagle Historic District at large. Due to limitations in funding, which needed to be apportioned at once to excavation, survey, and historic research, we decided to utilize the National Archives first in our historic research, leaving open the possibility of visiting other repositories depending on the amount of time spent at the Archives. We realized that we could not possibly pursue an exhaustive survey of all possible sources; nor would we be able to present a comprehensive history of Fort Egbert. The goal of the work was to obtain as much information as possible on the functioning of the fort, its establishment and abandonment. In particular, due to the related archeological research, we focused on information regarding technology at the fort as well as documented activities that would have affected the deposition of material in the area and adjustments to the structures. Given the abundant information in the National Archives, we were not able to extend research to additional facilities, other than the University of Alaska Archives. It must be emphasized that the historic research has been most limited which is not due to any negative bias on our part but rather to expediency in terms of satisfying the immediate needs for the archeological clearance and the survey.

The request for a proposal (RFP) from BLM for survey work was cast in terms of a need for a data inventory, in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Federal Executive Order 11593 of 1971. These data would be used for a synthesis of land use in the district from prehistoric to historic time, with an emphasis on the Fort Egbert era (1899-1911). In our response to the RFP, we were able to predict that the district should contain evidence of various prehistoric and historic activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping, trading, mining, and American military pursuits. Our project goal, in addition to providing an inventory of sites, was to study land use and settlement patterns at specific and succeeding points in time and through time, with particular attention to the role of environmental and social factors in site occupation and selection. We assumed that the primary determinants of site location would be environmental and

that sites would be "located in such a way as to minimize the effort expended in dealing with the environment" (Redman 1973:13). We also postulated that social variables might be important in areas where two contrasting cultural systems (Athapaskan Indian and American) have been present for some time, while noting that social and spatial separation may be maintained at the same time that environmental variables control the choice of activity areas.

In our response to BLM, excavation strategy was designed to provide information on technology and activity patterns in a specific locale of the fort and to answer the questions posed relating to the building structure. We noted that excavation at the Stables within a limited area on two sides of the building could not provide us with a data base from which we could present an overall picture of Fort Egbert (a specification requested by BLM). No comparative archeological data on American military activities in the early twentieth century in Alaska exist. Hence, the work at Fort Egbert was conceived as an important first step toward accumulating information on patterns of behavior relevant to this cultural context. Additional comparative data will lend to the examination of a number of questions regarding cultural process--such as the rate of adoption of new technological aids in both non-native and native contexts in a frontier setting.

The project, then, was thought of in terms of three components--historic research, survey, and excavation. All investigators have worked closely together throughout the duration of the project and have taken a shared responsibility for all components.

The pragmatic concerns of BLM, as a land managing agency, in terms of identifying and protecting cultural resources and interpreting them for the public, have been considered in the project, as well as the basic research which forms the data base for management decisions and for anthropological interpretation. Accordingly, our thinking about the project has included consideration of a number of dimensions, in the field as well as in the analysis and synthesis of the data. For example, recommendations are considered in terms of significance to several interest groups--archeologists, site interpreters, managers, and visitors (the public).

The report is organized in terms of the three major research components. The results of this research, which form

the bulk of the report, follow chapters presenting briefly a summary of the natural setting and history of the Eagle Historic District and a discussion of previous anthropological work in the district. A synthesis of research results is presented at the end of the report along with specific recommendations for future research and for cultural resource management in the district.

We would like to acknowledge the cooperation and support of BLM personnel throughout the duration of the project, particularly Dr. Ray Leicht, Cultural Resource Specialist, Alaska State Office, and Steven Peterson, Fort Egbert Project Manager, who was in charge of restoration activities at the Quartermaster's Stables.

CHAPTER II.

THE NATURAL AND HISTORIC SETTING

THE NATURAL SETTING

Eagle City and the abandoned site of Fort Egbert are located along the shores of the Yukon River at the junction of Mission Creek. The city and the adjoining fort, amidst stands of aspen and birch trees, dominated by Eagle Bluff, are set in one of the most picturesque localities in central Alaska that can be reached today by a highway in the summer.

The Eagle area is located within the geographic region of the upper middle Yukon in Alaska (Fig. 1). This region is bisected by the Yukon River and extends from the southeastern extent of the Yukon Flats above Circle, upriver to the Sixtymile River, some 40 miles above Dawson in the Yukon Territory. It coincides with the Tintina Valley (also called the Eagle Trough) physiographic division in Alaska (Wahrhaftig 1965).

The topography of this area is characterized by moderate to high relief on both sides of the Yukon River with hills and ridges from 1,000 to 2,000 feet in altitude (Wahrhaftig 1965). The project area in the vicinity of Eagle (Fig. 2), near the southeast part of the Tintina Valley, consists of areas with low to moderate relief, roughly between 300 and 1,200 feet in altitude, with gradual as well as abrupt slopes. However, the project area also includes Eagle Bluff, a well-known landmark, mentioned above, which rises sharply some 2,200 feet at the junction of Mission Creek and the Yukon River. No large lakes occur in this southeastern portion of the Eagle Trough and the area is generally underlain by permafrost.

The Eagle Trough or Tintina Valley is representative of a geological setting which, in broad terms, is "underlain by a synclinal belt of highly deformed sedimentary rocks of Cretaceous and Tertiary age" (Wahrhaftig 1965). The city of Eagle, specifically, is situated on the second

alluvial terrace above the Yukon River and Mission Creek, nearly 700 feet above sea level. This alluvium--sand, gravel, and silt--terrace contains organic silt and peat along with glacial outwash and reworked glacial deposits deposited by the Yukon River and Mission Creek during the Holocene (ca. 11,000 B.P.) geological epoch (Foster 1972). Above this alluvium terrace, from 900 to 1,200 feet above sea level, are intermediate and high terrace deposits, also composed of silt, sand, and gravel. The gravel within these deposits is often poorly sorted, while the terrace deposits may be locally mantled with wind-blown sand (Foster 1972). These higher alluvium terrace deposits range in age from the Pleistocene to the Holocene (ca. 1,800,000 to 11,000 B.P.).

At higher elevations, between 1,200 and 1,500 feet, stream valleys are similarly characterized by alluvium and colluvium deposits composed primarily of sand, gravel, and silt. The heads of valleys and valley slopes are dominated by fine to coarse colluvium loose deposits of rock debris, while talus and talus cones occur in the more rugged mountain areas of the region (Foster 1972). Alluvial fan deposits, till, glacial outwash, lake deposits, organic silt, and peat are locally included in these deposits which are associated with the Holocene epoch.

Ranging from about 1,500 feet to 2,100 feet in elevation are formations of detrital sedimentary rocks which extend from the late Cretaceous period to Pliocene epoch (ca. 65,000,000 to 13,000,000 B.P.) throughout the Eagle area. This formation is composed of conglomerates, sandstone, mud stone, shale, breccia, tuffaceous rocks, and lignite (Foster 1972). In the immediate vicinity of Eagle, well-rounded cobbles of black chert formed in central Alaska during the late Paleozoic are common in these formations (Foster 1972; Wahrhaftig 1965). This formation has been folded and faulted and indeed the Eagle area is situated in the Tintina fault zone (Wahrhaftig 1965).

At the highest elevations, between 2,100 feet and the summits, the geological formation is characterized by metamorphic and igneous rocks such as quartz-mica schist and greenschist composed of quartzite, marble, quartz-muscovite schist, chlorite schist, and greenstone (Foster 1972). This deposit may locally include cataclastic rocks and hornfels with retrograded gneissic rocks occurring particularly near granitic contacts. The dating of this formation is uncertain, but original sediments probably

date mostly from the Paleozoic era beginning 600 million years ago with metamorphisms in this era and/or the Mesozoic era beginning 230 million years ago (Ibid.).

The archeological survey of the project area was almost entirely undertaken on alluvium terrace deposits laid down by the Yukon River and Mission Creek during Holocene and Pleistocene times. The only exception to this was the survey of portions of Eagle Bluff composed of primarily basaltic greenstone which was formed in more ancient times millions of years ago during the Paleozoic era (Shacklette 1966).

The climate of the region is continental and subarctic in nature, with cold dry winters and extremes of heat in the summer. The average temperature of this zone is between 15° and 25°F with extremes of -75°F and 100°F and an average annual precipitation of 15 inches.

The Eagle Historic District contains a vegetation cover that ranges from open birch stands to forests of dense spruce and cottonwood or aspen trees and rose bushes. Lowland areas, which are rare in the area, are characterized by muskeg or dense thickets of willow and rose bushes along the waterways. [A useful source on the ecological setting in this area is a map produced by the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission (1973), Anchorage, Alaska, with accompanying text. This source has been heavily relied on in the following discussion.]

Almost the entire project area is situated within an upland spruce-hardwood forest ecosystem located along the left limit of the Yukon River within a two-mile radius of the city of Eagle. Generally, this ecosystem is characterized by a fairly dense interior forest of white spruce, birch, aspen, and poplar. Black spruce predominates on the north-facing slopes, such as the north slope of Eagle Bluff, and in poorly drained flat areas, for example, along the margins of boggy areas (noted during the survey at points along the left limit of American Creek and west of Castalia Creek). White spruce is found in mixed stands on south-facing slopes and in well-drained areas or in pure stands near streams. In the survey area, pure stands of white spruce were found on a ridge of moderate relief west of the city and at points along American and Mission creeks. Cottonwood occurs in scattered stands such as those found along the right limit of Mission Creek between American Creek and the Yukon River. The understory includes species

of moss, grass, willow, alder, rose, low and highbush cranberry, and horsetail.

Seven plant taxa that "generally are rare in Alaska" and the Yukon Territory and almost entirely restricted in distribution to the upper Yukon drainage were identified on the southwest-facing slope of Eagle Bluff in 1960 (Shacklette 1966:F23, F24). These plants are *Campanula aurita*, *Erysimum inconspicuum*, *Oxytropis viscida* forma *albida*, *Pentstemon gormani*, *Phacelia mollis*, *Potentilla pennsylvanica* var. *strigosa*, and *Silene repens* subsp. *purpurata*. Four other species which were previously unknown from Alaska were also identified. Two of these were recently included in the Federal Register as "endangered" plants--*Eriogonum flavum* and *Cryptantha shackletteana* (Shacklette 1966:F23; Federal Register June 16, 1976). The remaining two plants identified are *Phacelia sericea* and *Erysimum angustatum*. It was also noted to be of considerable interest in this phytoecological study that so many "rare Alaska plants were found in the small study area on Eagle Bluff" (Shacklette 1966:F24).

Within the upland spruce hardwood forest a variety of faunal and avian species are characteristic. These include black and brown bear, wolverine, moose, caribou, snowshoe hare, red fox, lynx, weasel, marten, squirrels, grouse, ptarmigan, ravens, eagles, hawks, songbirds, and woodland owls. During our survey, evidence of beaver was also found within this ecosystem in the Eagle area.

Archeological survey along the right bank of the Yukon River opposite the city of Eagle was undertaken within a bottomland spruce-poplar ecosystem which is typified by a dense forest of white spruce with cottonwood or poplar with white spruce successional to the former species. The undergrowth is also dense, which was quite evident during our survey, and consists of high and low shrubs such as willow, American green alder, thinleaf alder, rose, dogwood, Labrador tea, and some berries. Faunal and avian species present are similar to those of the upland spruce-hardwood forest ecosystem with the exception of caribou and ptarmigan and the additional presence of beaver, mink, land otter, and mice.

Soils are characteristically well-drained, with shallow to moderate deep gravelly loams and silt loams over coarse materials. Soils on north-facing slopes are shallow and gravelly with continuous permafrost.

THE HISTORIC SETTING

The Eagle Historic District has been the location of a variety of human activities and life styles throughout the past. Traditionally, Han Athapaskan Indians occupied the area utilizing a number of food resources such as caribou, moose, bear, salmon, grayling, berries, and ducks. During the late nineteenth century, the Han had semipermanent camps near the mouth of Mission Creek and further upstream on the Yukon River near the present site of Eagle Village. A trading post was established in the area in 1880 by Francois Mercier (n.d.) who built a cabin at a place he called "Belle Isle" for the Western Fur and Trading Company. He left in 1881, returning in 1882 and building another post (a cabin) for the Alaska Commercial Company. Another agent from the Western Fur and Trading Company occupied the cabin built in 1880 during the winter of 1882. Mercier (n.d.) left the area in 1883 and the subsequent history of trading companies at Eagle in the 1880's is not clear.

The next decade was dominated by a search for gold, encouraged by the Klondike discovery in 1896. Gold had been discovered in 1895 at American Creek, a tributary of Mission Creek, but problems in controlling the creek waters led to abandonment (Grauman 1977). Miners, however, flocked to the Eagle area in 1898, representing an overflow of disappointed gold seekers returning from the Yukon Territory. Eagle City emerged this year to cater to and house this new population.

Coinciding with, and not unrelated to, these activities, the United States Army established the Fort Egbert military reservation at Eagle in 1899. This was one of the first three military installations in the young territory of Alaska, acquired some 30 years earlier by the United States. As mining waned, and the Fort Egbert military reservation was abandoned in 1911, the area was then occupied by a small population (native and non-native) in two communities separated by three miles (Eagle City and Eagle Village). Today, people continue to make a living from the land as in earlier times by hunting, fishing, and trapping.

Thus, the project area incorporates a portion of Alaska which was subjected to a variety of cultural activity throughout its history. This section of the report presents an overview of these activities, within an historical perspective, with a focus on the use of natural resources

in the area. A more detailed discussion of the history of Fort Egbert is presented in Chapter IV.

Traditional Native Use of Resources

The project area includes only a portion of the total area traditionally occupied and used by Han Athapaskan Indians. Han Indian territory in Alaska traditionally included the areas bordering the Yukon River roughly between Tacoma Bluff in the northwest to the Alaska/Yukon boundary in the southeast. It also extended into portions of the Yukon Territory. Their main settlements were situated at Charley's Village at the mouth of the Kandik River (also called Charley Creek) and at Johnny's Village and David's Camp near Eagle during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Numerous summer fish camps were located along the Yukon River, while hunting camps tended to be located in the hills and mountainous areas more distant from the river itself (Andrews 1977). In a careful examination of many sources referring to traditional Han population, anthropologist C. Osgood estimated that the Alaskan and Yukon Han population totalled about 500 in the last quarter of the nineteenth century (Osgood 1971:32). Today, Eagle Village represents the only permanent settlement of the Han in Alaska, with a population of about 70.

The seasonal subsistence cycle of the Han in Alaska reflects annual movements between more or less permanent villages along the Yukon and camps in the adjacent hills and mountains. As early as the first decade of the twentieth century, Ferdinand Schmitter, a medical doctor stationed at Fort Egbert three miles from the village of Eagle, documented the annual cycle of the Han which included the hunting of caribou, moose, bear, and sheep during all seasons, and fishing in the summer. A yearly cycle is described in Schmitter's writings (1910:2-3):

"During the winter season they moved about wherever game is plentiful. The men go to a place, cache their packs, and then proceed to hunt. The next day the women come, pitch the camp, and prepare to cook. In the spring they go to the river bank, where they make canoes and nets in preparation for salmon fishing, and during the summer dry and cache large quantities of fish. In the early fall the entire family goes hunting and when a good supply of game is accumulated they cache it on the spot. In October they return to the river for about two months, when they make snow-shoes, toboggans, and other things for winter use.

About the middle of January they have a big time--'all same Christmas'--when they get out all their cached meat and bring it to the river. They stay there till the meat is nearly gone, and again go in search of game until the middle of March, when the weather moderates, at which time they return to the river banks."

The locations of Han settlements, with good access to predictable runs of salmon and caribou migrations which resulted in annual human movements between the river and the hills, were noted as early as 1932 by Osgood (1971:30):

"...Timber of the desirable kinds is in good supply, and the accessibility of caribou grounds for fall hunting offers no great problem. What I am saying essentially is that the central segment of the middle Yukon was probably the best area for Indians in the surrounding quarter of a million square miles. As it happens, that central segment of the middle Yukon is practically identical with the territory occupied by the Han."

Throughout the course of a year, Han Indians utilized other resources thereby supplementing their subsistence emphasis on salmon and caribou. These included black and brown bear, mountain sheep, hare, beaver, lynx, marten, porcupine, fox, wolf, mink, and wolverine, which were taken for food and/or fur (Osgood 1971:111). Avian species used as a food source were primarily geese, ducks, grouse, and ptarmigan. Edible plants collected in the area consisted of blueberries, lowbush cranberries, salmon berries, gooseberries, crowberries, and the root of the *Hedysarum americana* plant (Osgood 1971:113).

It is important to bear in mind that animals were taken not only for food and that the forest did not provide only firewood. Han Indians, like other Northern Athapaskan peoples, utilized the skins of moose and caribou for such items as mittens, footgear, clothing, and coverings for houses; the bone for tools such as awls, arrowpoints, skin scrapers, and knives; sinew for snares and netting (Osgood 1971:66-72). Birch was a hardwood used in the manufacture of bows, spoons, dip net frames, snowshoe frames, and canoe frames, while its bark was used for making a variety of baskets and containers, for canoe, cache, and house coverings. Spruce was employed in the construction of houses, smokehouses, and caches, and its bark also served as a covering for these structures, while spruce root was commonly used in the manufacture of fish traps and baskets

(Osgood 1971:66-68, 88-90). Willow was also used occasionally in house construction and as a lining for underground caches and in contrasting fish traps. Its bark was often employed much like twine and used for the netting of dip nets (Osgood 1971:66-68; Caulfield 1977:18).

During increased contact with white people, and especially with the onset of the gold rush around the turn of the twentieth century, many native people began to increase their acquisition of natural resources for use by non-natives. Activities during this time included the hunting of moose, caribou, and ducks for sale to individual miners or markets in such communities as Eagle, Fortymile, and Dawson. Salmon fishing also increased as dried fish was sold or traded to those who used it to feed their dog teams. Wood cutting along the river became more important as passing steamboats purchased thousands of cords as they freighted goods and people along the Yukon. Trapping also increased as furs were often traded or sold in order to acquire non-native food and goods (Osgood 1971).

Non-Native Use of Natural Resources

During the third quarter of the nineteenth century an increasing number of non-natives ventured through the area in which Eagle and Eagle Village are situated and many stayed long enough to spend more than a single season. This influx of people into traditionally Indian territory included traders, trappers, and miners as well as a variety of other individuals who made up the townsfolk of the small non-native towns which eventually developed. Traders no doubt subsisted on many of the imported food items which they also traded to local native populations, but they probably also relied on local foods derived from the hunting of large and small game as well as fish. Some of these fresh products were used in trade while others no doubt were probably acquired by the trader directly engaging in hunting and fishing in the area. Many of these traders of the Yukon River, such as McQuesten, Harper, and Mayo, were also prospectors and devoted much of their time to looking for areas in the Fortymile which might have gold-bearing potential (Grauman 1977).

By the end of the 1880's, gold was discovered in the Fortymile region and a post established at the mouth of the Fortymile River which served to outfit prospectors in the region rather than cater to native fur-trading activities (McQuesten 1952). Fresh meat and fish resources

of the region still probably supplemented the imported food items which arrived each summer by steamboat. In 1889, an Alaska Commercial Company steamer with supplies bound for the upper Yukon struck a rock downriver and lost all provisions (Grauman 1977:53). As a result, one historic report notes that four miners in the Fortymile district found that they could subsist on the 40 caribou they killed, supplemented by a small amount of flour and beans they had on hand (Grauman 1977:53). The following fall they reportedly constructed a fish trap for catching "a ton and a half" of grayling (Grauman 1977:54). Thus, it is clear that the early miners in the region did at times utilize some of the food resources available locally. Additionally, we can also assume that timber was used in construction of their homes, boats, and other material items as well as for fuel for heat. And finally, the taking of gold from sources in the area by a variety of methods from gold panning to later drift-mining should also be viewed as one use of the natural resources by non-natives.

During the 1890's, the influx of miners into the Eagle area further increased. As early as 1896, several miners camped at the mouth of Mission Creek and by summer 1898 one geologist (E. C. Barnard) reported 500 cabins, a sawmill, three commercial companies and a population of 1,700 at Eagle (Grauman 1977:80, 82). With more than 200 claims staked by 1900 on nearby American and Mission creeks, miners as well as others no doubt engaged in hunting, fishing, trapping, and chopping and hauling wood in order to make a living in their new northern environs (Grauman 1977:83,176).

Although strikes of gold at Nome in 1900 and later in the Tanana Valley in 1902 drained Eagle of much of its mining population, the military garrison of Fort Egbert still contracted for cord wood, steamboats still supplied the local commercial companies with imported items, and fur-bearing animals were still taken. Fort Egbert had a standing contract for 3,000 cords of wood and trapping was considered an "acceptable sideline to mining for gold or chopping wood" (Haynes 1976:39, 43). Beyond Eagle on the major tributaries of the upper Yukon and some of the smaller creeks, traplines often extended 100 miles and more and traps were checked with dog teams for transportation (Caulfield 1977:13, 14). Throughout the 1920's and 1930's caribou were a primary source of food for people as well as for the sled dogs (Caulfield 1977:20) who were important not only for trappers but also for mail carriers, people

who freighted, and people traveling between communities. Other food sources such as bear, moose, hare, grouse, and fish were probably sought as a welcome change to their diet.

U.S. Military Use of Natural Resources

Throughout the operation of Fort Egbert during the first decade of the twentieth century, military personnel engaged in many of the same activities as the civilian and native populations in regard to the acquisition and use of local natural resources. One of the first structures erected at the newly established garrison in 1899 was the sawmill which planed locally derived logs and milled lumber for the construction of the buildings. Additionally, wood was the only source of fuel for heat and the standing contract for cordwood at the fort was noted above. Although some beef was shipped to the fort annually, the records of one commanding officer stationed at Fort Egbert include repeated accounts of hunting nearby (C. S. Farnsworth n.d.). One document reports that soldiers sent out to a nearby hunting camp killed 52 caribou in one fall day. Another document noted that "in seven days they killed 75 caribou and 250 ptarmigan, enough for the town and the entire post for the rest of the winter" as well as for the Indian village (R. Farnsworth 1977). Mountain sheep were also hunted only 15 miles from the fort (C. S. Farnsworth n.d.). During the construction of the overland telegraph line under the direction of Lieutenant William "Billy" Mitchell in 1902-1903, caribou were often hunted and the meat cached so that food supplies transported from the fort were minimal (Mitchell n.d.). Mitchell also insisted on summer fishing for salmon which served as dog food for the numerous sled dogs used throughout the survey and construction of the overland telegraph line (Mitchell n.d.). In 1905, the military still maintained a summer fish camp on the Yukon below Fort Egbert (Andrews 1905-1907). Due to the high costs of shipping fresh food and building materials and with delivery limited to only the summer season, it is clear that the military at Fort Egbert, like the local native and non-native population, had to rely on local resources although this reliance was limited to timber for fuel and construction and game for a fresh meat supply.

Contemporary Native and Non-Native Use of Resources

Both the native residents of Eagle Village and the white residents at Eagle procure many of the same resources

in the area while engaged in hunting, trapping, fishing, and woodcutting during the course of the year. In the fall, native residents hunt moose and black bear in the immediate vicinity. Moose hunting takes place in the flats around the village and across the Yukon from Eagle. This area is considered "Indian land" by non-natives in the city of Eagle who hunt moose farther downriver near Seventymile River (Caulfield 1977:27, 32). Black bear is often hunted along the river in late spring and during our field survey in early June we noted one bear taken by a native man near the river just outside of the city. In addition, fresh bear fecal matter was observed throughout the survey area during our field investigations. Fall also used to be important for caribou hunting in the adjacent hills and mountains west of Eagle but no caribou have been taken in this area since 1971 because of a sharp decline in the Fortymile herd "caused by out migrations, poor calf survival, and overhunting, coupled with increased hunting restrictions" which "have virtually eliminated significant use of caribou by local residents in recent years" (Caulfield 1977:28). Occasionally, Dall sheep are taken near Glacier Summit west of Eagle.

During the winter some people engage in trapping, although the traplines are much shorter than they were earlier in the century. Most traplines for city residents can be checked on one-day trips as lines extend toward Boulder Creek, Seventymile River, along the Taylor Highway, and near American Summit (Caulfield 1977:27). Native residents have one-mile lines extending around their village (Caulfield 1977:34). Traps are usually set for marten, wolf, fox, wolverine, and lynx.

In the summer, nets are set in the Yukon for king and dog salmon. While some people often can and dry king salmon for human consumption, dog salmon are often dried by village residents for use as dog food for the active dog teams. Early to mid-June is the best time for gathering birch bark which is used by native women in the manufacture of baskets, trays, and a variety of containers for sale or personal use. One native woman provided us with directions to a good stand of birch for peeling bark which we later found during our field survey exactly as she noted. Willow and spruce roots are also collected for use in the manufacture of these same items.

Throughout the year, wood is collected for use either as firewood or for house logs. Almost all homes, native

and non-native, are heated by wood (Caulfield 1977:28). Among non-natives, wood is usually collected in areas just west of the city of Eagle along the Taylor Highway, although some residents snag driftwood from the Yukon in the summer (Caulfield 1977:28). The native residents of Eagle Village tend to get wood in areas immediately surrounding the village or in the flats across the Yukon River and each household tends to have a "roughly-defined cutting area and trail system from which others are excluded" (Caulfield 1977:34). For native residents, these wood trails also function as short traplines and offer the opportunity for snaring rabbit and hunting grouse and ptarmigan when going to cut wood (Caulfield 1977:34).

CHAPTER III.

PREVIOUS ANTHROPOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

PREVIOUS ARCHEOLOGICAL WORK

Archeological investigations in the vicinity of the Eagle Historic District and Fort Egbert have been very limited and except for two brief earlier surveys, all of them occurred in the summer of 1976. The area was surveyed in the 1950's (William Irving, University of Toronto, personal communication, 1976) and the presence of a site at the river end of the former woodyard of Fort Egbert and adjacent to the present BLM Fire Guard Station was noted (see Chapter V: Fig. 50). Various prehistoric artifacts were observed in eroded portions of the bank on the left limit of the Yukon River. According to some residents in the city of Eagle and Eagle Village in 1976, corpses wrapped in birch bark were observed eroding from this same bank in the past. In the course of an inventory of historic and cemetery sites in the area in summer 1976, Andrews (1977) was told of this site by native residents. She also observed bone material and hearth features in the cut bank. Surface material in the area included boulder spalls, flakes, and retouched glass. In the same season, student interns working for BLM tested three areas near the edge of the higher and lower bank in this area. Two areas near the edge of the higher bank by the BLM Fire Guard Station revealed a disturbed level between the volcanic ash horizon and the sod level that contained glass fragments, wire, nails, a biface, and flakes (Waldman 1976:25). A smaller test excavation was placed near the edge of the lower bank below the BLM Fire Guard Station, where two superimposed hearths were observed in the cut bank. Historic material was found in a layer above the hearth, while the hearth level contained flakes, charcoal, and a ceramic fragment. Andrews (1977) also observed flake material in several locations along the eastern limit of the current airstrip and along the road between First Avenue and the Eagle Museum.

During the fall of 1975, archeologist Roderick Sprague spent two days at the site of the Fort Egbert core area. During this brief survey, he visited most of the original building sites in the core area and gathered data which he later used to establish recommendations for future archeological work at Fort Egbert for BLM (Sprague 1975).

In summer 1976, a University of Alaska crew, under the direction of Andrews (1977) partially excavated an early historic Han Indian site on the left bank of the Yukon about one and one-half miles upriver from the site of the BLM Fire Guard Station. The site consists of eight house depressions. Genealogical information provided by native Eagle residents suggests that the site was occupied during the last quarter of the nineteenth century but was abandoned prior to the establishment of Fort Egbert in 1899. Two houses were excavated and the excavations revealed that they were elliptical in shape, approximately 12 feet by 15 feet, each with a central hearth about three feet in diameter. Structural remains indicated that the house frames consisted of small timbers, many of diamond willow, lashed together. Artifact recovery consisted of items of native and non-native manufacture, including stone skin scrapers, a skin flesher, a bone arrowpoint, a bone snowshoe netting needle, glass trade beads, cartridge cases, glass and metal buttons, a muzzleloading gun barrel, and a trap. The site was clearly an early contact site. Preliminary analysis of some of the trade items reveals that it was occupied sometime after 1880 (Andrews 1977).

BLM archeologists and student interns also surveyed a proposed access road for the BLM Campground near American Creek in 1976. They observed a surface scatter of lithic debitage and microblade fragments on one section of the proposed road (Waldman 1976).

Finally, during summer 1976, another University of Alaska crew, under the direction of Shinkwin and Sackett, excavated at the U. S. Courthouse (1901) in Eagle in connection with a city of Eagle restoration project. A large collection of historic artifacts was found, and the excavation determined the original location of the front porch, which had been removed in 1924, as well as a boardwalk along the north side of the building and an earlier location for the stairway at the back of the structure (Shinkwin and Sackett 1976). The excavation also revealed a prehistoric locality beneath the historic level which yielded flakes and biface fragments (Shinkwin and Sackett

1976). This latter find provides additional evidence of a prehistoric occupation of the area.

Additional sites and localities were located in summer 1976 in the greater Eagle area between Eagle and Circle as well as along the South, North, and Middle forks of the Fortymile River and on Copper Creek, a tributary of the Charley River. These sites are recorded in a variety of reports and include prehistoric sites, early historic native settlements, historic cabins, roadhouses, and coal mines (Bowers and Hoch 1976; Bell and Sullivan 1976; Andrews 1977; Grauman 1977). All of these reports reveal a use of the general area similar to that found in previous archeological work in the Eagle area and during our 1977 field survey.

PREVIOUS ETHNOGRAPHIC WORK

Nearly 130 years ago some of the first observations of people in the Eagle area were recorded. These early records are restricted to native peoples and the observations concerning the Han Indians, specifically, are presented below. The first remarks were not those of a trained anthropologist or ethnographer but of Hudson Bay Company trader Alexander Murray who established a post at Fort Yukon in 1847 (Murray 1910). Murray never ventured to the homeland of the Han farther upriver along the Yukon, but did encounter them on their trading trips at Fort Yukon and along the Porcupine River. Several years later in 1851, trader Robert Campbell passed through their territory as he traveled from his post upriver at Fort Selkirk in the Yukon Territory to Fort Yukon, but he noted few observations on the people whose territory he traveled through (Campbell 1958; Osgood 1971). Other adventurers and scientists noted that the Han Kutchin traded at Fort Yukon in the 1860's, but left no accounts on the lifestyle of these people (Anonymous 1867-1869; Whympers 1966; Dall 1970). Another Hudson Bay Company trader, Strachan Jones, similarly made a few comments about the Han Indians whom he met at Fort Yukon in the early 1850's although his brief writings on the Kutchin Indians were published by the Smithsonian Institution (Jones 1872; Osgood 1971).

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century the residents of the Eagle area and aspects of their culture were noted by the trader, explorer, and missionary alike. As noted in the previous chapter, François Mercier, trader

for the Western Fur and Trading Company and the Alaska Commercial Company, first established a post in 1880 within a mile of the future site of the city of Eagle and near a Han Indian camp, but left few written accounts of the people who were his neighbors (Mercier n.d.). In the summer following Mercier's departure in 1883, Lieutenant Frederick Schwatka conducted a military reconnaissance of the Yukon River and left the first detailed accounts of aspects of Han culture, such as summer houses and salmon fishing and processing techniques, from observations of Indians who lived near the present village of Eagle (Schwatka 1900). During the same year, Church of England missionary, Reverend V. C. Sim, visited the Han but left virtually no account of their lifeways (Wesbrook 1969).

Throughout the last decade of the nineteenth century, other non-native people such as prospectors and trappers explored, camped, and traveled through the area. Few accounts of these people, detailing their own lifestyles or those of others, have been located. We do know, however, that by June 1898, 28 miners had assembled and organized a community at the junction of Mission Creek and the Yukon River--Eagle City (Grauman n.d.:16). Journalist Tappan Adney ventured to the Klondike region just prior to the turn of the century and made astute observations of natives and non-natives in the vicinity of Dawson (Adney 1900a, 1900b, 1902). His descriptions and drawings of travels at Han winter camps have proved most useful to the ethnographer as well as the archeologist.

The establishment of Fort Egbert Military Reservation in 1899 brought Captain Ferdinand Schmitter, a doctor, to Eagle in 1906. His interest in native "customs and lore" resulted in the first work which described the lifestyle of the Han Indians in the vicinity of Eagle. Although one-third of the work is devoted to the presentation of oral literature, Schmitter described other aspects of native culture including annual subsistence cycle, health and curing, habitations, fishing and hunting, technology, "government," economy and ceremonies (Schmitter 1910). Other military men such as Captain Farnsworth and Lieutenant William "Billy" Mitchell made brief observations on natives in the area including Upper Tanana Indians which they recorded in their unpublished accounts of their military duties while stationed at Fort Egbert (Farnsworth n.d.; Mitchell n.d.). Similarly, missionaries and other personnel associated with the Episcopal Mission at Eagle throughout most of the twentieth century have reported

activities of people in the area, but none comprise a systematic study of native or non-native culture in the Eagle area (The Alaskan Churchman 1908-present). C. L. Andrews, customs agent at Eagle intermittently from 1904 to 1909, made a few remarks on his perception of the character of the local native residents (Andrews 1905-1907).

In 1932, anthropologist C. Osgood spent 24 days among Han Indians at Moosehide (near Dawson), Eagle, and Nation. He systematically recorded aspects of Han culture and changes brought about by their contact with non-native people since the mid-nineteenth century. The results of this work appear in his monograph The Han Indians (Osgood 1971). Nearly 30 years later, in 1961, another anthropologist, Richard Slobodin, spent three weeks recording aspects of Han culture and worked with native people at Dawson, Moosehide, and Eagle. He spent another week the following year at Dawson. Some information from Slobodin's unpublished field notes was included in Osgood's work. In 1966, Catharine McClellan, an anthropologist who has also done research among Alaskan and Canadian Athapaskan groups, spent two days in Dawson gathering mostly linguistic and genealogical information (Osgood 1971:18). In the early 1970's through 1976, linguist Nancy McRoy, formerly of the Alaska Native Language Center, recorded many aspects of Han language in the process of devising an orthography for that language.

During the summer 1976, additional researchers worked in the city of Eagle and Eagle Village. Elizabeth Andrews spent two days at Eagle Village recording traditional settlements and localities and cultural activities associated with them as part of the implementation of Section 14(h)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (P.L. 92-203) (Andrews 1977). She later returned for two weeks to undertake archeological and ethnographic investigations at an early historic Han village, mentioned earlier in this chapter. Also, during the summer of 1976 a student intern for BLM, Terry Haynes, recorded twentieth century historical-cultural information for the Fortymile Resource Area and worked with people in Eagle, Chicken, and Tok (Haynes 1976). He returned the following summer to continue that work.

Throughout 1976 to 1977, researcher Richard Caulfield worked among both the natives and non-natives of Eagle and Circle, as well as with people along the Yukon River between these two communities. More specifically, he

recorded subsistence use of the land and waters in the area, with emphasis on the use of the area to be included in the proposed Yukon and Charley National Rivers System as stipulated in Section 17 (d) (2) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (P.L. 92-203) (Caulfield 1977).

It is clear that both native and non-native occupants of the Eagle area have received a variety of notice in published and unpublished, systematic and nonsystematic works throughout the past 130 years. This information includes reports of the traditional clothing and hairstyle of native residents in 1847, descriptions of gold-crazed prospectors 50 years later, and the professional study of Han culture and the contemporary land use of a relatively small group of natives and non-natives in Alaska's sub-arctic. While several accounts specifically describe cultural patterns in this environment, the results of our archeological survey of a comparatively small area adjacent to the city of Eagle have provided additional and specific details which supplement our present knowledge of these cultural patterns.

CHAPTER IV.

HISTORIC RESEARCH ON FORT EGBERT

GOALS AND SOURCES

The objectives of historic research on Fort Egbert were:

(1) To gain an overview of the establishment, the raison d'être and tenor of life at Fort Egbert during its existence, the circumstances of its closing, and subsequent activity on the site relating to its physical continuity.

(2) To determine specifically, and in as detailed a manner as possible, the nature of goods imported by the military at the fort and the manner and containers in which these were shipped.

(3) To locate architectural plans and lists in an effort to document the physical layout of the site--not only the nature and function of the buildings (which were already known) but the use of their internal space as well.

(4) To supply answers to specific questions posed by the archeologists in connection with their fieldwork, particularly with the aim of collecting information useful to the interpretation of data from the survey at the fort and excavations at the Quartermaster's Stables.

It was evident at the beginning of the project that the historic research, limited by time and funds as all components were, represented only the initial phase of data collection on the history of this post. The research results, which follow a discussion of specific sources utilized in this study, should be viewed as preliminary and very incomplete in terms of an exhaustive historical synthesis. A sufficient amount of data was gathered, however, to sketch out the establishment, functioning, and demise of Fort Egbert.

Research was conducted at the National Archives and Record Service (NARS), Washington, D.C., in July 1977. Data gathered there form the major basis for the research

results. In addition, three collections (C. L. Andrews, C. S. Farnsworth, W. Mitchell) in the University of Alaska Archives were consulted by members of the project.

A number of documents, listed by record groups at NARS, were studied. Within record groups (RG), the various divisions of NARS differ in terms of classification of their documents. For example, the collections of the Navy and Old Army Branch are divided into entries, and further divided into file numbers, which contain from as little as a memo or a couple of letters bundled together, to one or more file boxes containing all records of a particular event or process. By contrast, records in the Natural Resources Branch are less formally sorted, and bundled according to a general heading. Thus, "Abandoned Military Reservations" contains all the written records deposited with NARS about all Alaskan Army posts, and must be sorted through when looking for information on a particular fort. An informal summary of the nature of the information found within each record group, arranged loosely according to relative value, is reported below.

RG 49, Abandoned Military Reservations. Documents of primary value in this record group relating to Fort Egbert were the detailed accounts, including survey lists and appraisals, of the disposition of structures on the Fort Egbert site subsequent to the Army's withdrawal in August 1911. At that time, although the two infantry companies left, the Signal Corps remained at the site until 1932, servicing the stations along the telegraph line. In addition, the Alaska Road Commission, which was in the U.S. War Department until 1932 when it was transferred to the Department of the Interior, received three portions of the post by 1925.

Military installations remaining in Alaska, such as Fort Gibbon at Tanana, were allowed to take over individual buildings at Fort Egbert, and to dismantle others for maintenance purposes. Other buildings were similarly scavenged by civilians, who encountered no difficulty in gaining permission from the Interior Department in Washington. A final, major disposition of property occurred in 1932 when, owing to the construction of an airfield, a number of buildings (by now severely deteriorated) were auctioned off to the public.

The post buildings were appraised twice, in 1926 and 1932, so that records of the structures and their states

are quite good, though information as to which civilians purchased post property, i.e., that which was movable, are far less satisfactory. The Sawmill (Building 23), and what is described as all the machinery, were apparently moved to Fort Gibbon at Tanana, but the only source for this is a 1926 letter from the appraiser to the Commissioner of the General Land Office (letter, H. K. Carlisle, October 28, 1926). No official order contemporaneous with the move was found, however. Food stores were shipped to Fort Davis, and that is more or less well documented.

The results of several land surveys, relating to Carl M. Johanson's struggle to maintain his sawmill on land annexed for the military reservation, the transfer of the town cemetery, and adjustments subsequent to the military departure are also contained in these files. The final document of importance, Lt. Harry Graham's 1909 Military Historical Sketch of Fort Egbert (ms.), provides a useful summary of the post, though little detail except for a listing of companies and commanding officers stationed.

The railroad rights-of-way file was not useful, containing mostly articles of incorporation and similar legal documents for companies which never functioned, but had grand designs of linking Alaska to Siberia, and the like.

RG 126, Eagle Townsite Files. This record group contained mostly surveys and deeds to properties within the town. A list of residents for 1908 was compiled by U. G. Myers, the Townsite Trustee, and this was studied with the hope that it would provide clues to the inhabitants' activities, especially vis-à-vis the military. Also, deeds were scanned in the hope of determining the nature of the commercial properties, but unless the title was held by a corporation, the commercial or residential nature of a given property was not indicated. Most useful in this record group was the correspondence between Myers and various landholders, mostly miners who had gone on to the Fairbanks or Iditarod gold fields, as local news accompanied tax bills and other official notices. All in all, however, information in these files is supportive at best.

RG 92, Records of the Quartermaster General. An index to this record group was checked, comparing it to the inventory of holdings in the Alaska Resources Library which we obtained prior to the work at NARS. All file numbers not available in Alaska, but likely to contain information,

were consulted. These documents were the most valuable in their specifics of all those contained in NARS.

Annual reports were submitted by the post Quartermaster to the Quartermaster General of the Department of the Columbia, in Vancouver, Washington, which listed all supplies except food and clothing required for the coming year. The reports contain records of construction material for specific buildings; other supplies such as blacksmithing tools and materials and their specific functions; brand names of some of the machines (the water wagon was a Studebaker, for example); lists of civil service employees and what they were paid, etc. Thus, there exists a record far more complete than expected of material items imported into the fort, as well as good, though non-specific, information on the means of transportation used. In addition, contracts for forage, let out in Vancouver, indicate what the livestock and dogs consumed, and fuel contracts, let out in Eagle, show what was paid annually, and how much wood was burnt. Indications of what off-duty activities were provided on post include the correspondence requesting and authorizing the construction of the New Post Exchange (Building 30) and later the Gymnasium (Building 36) and the establishment of the short-lived Officer's Lyceum (an outgrowth of the Chautauqua movement; such Lyceums enjoyed a vogue in the military around the turn of the century).

The major lacunae in these files are the plans for the buildings. Except for the Post Laundry (Building 20) none were found. According to the Archivist in the Navy and Old Army Branch, Mr. Dale Floyd, many military structures at the time were built from a set of master plans, but no such reference was found at NARS. (Although floor plans could not be found at NARS, plans for ca. 19 buildings were supplied us by BLM and they can be consulted in the Alaska Resources Library, Anchorage.) All indications are that buildings were set upon blocks. One memorandum requesting permission for excavation beneath the Hospital (Building 34) which was denied was found. That such an excavation took place anyway would indicate individual action, and perhaps peccadillo. Alaskan forces at the time were allowed a fair amount of leeway, and often took more.

These papers also deal with the problem of the water system and sewer; the latter was never constructed. Water was apparently piped to the Officers' Quarters and some few other buildings, while most were supplied by the water wagon. In general, the Quartermaster's files provide a

healthy shot at interpreting the artifactual record, and a fair notion of what life was like at Fort Egbert, with the notable exceptions of plans of buildings and information on diet.

RG 192, Records of the Adjutant General, Office of the Commissary General. Food supplies and consumables were ordered separately from other supplies, through the office of the Commissary General. While certain items, i.e., flour, potatoes, beef, were supplied in a standard fashion to army posts, a post Commissary Sergeant in Alaska was allowed considerably greater latitude than his counterpart in the lower 48 states. Departmental Adjutants were cognizant of the stress of long periods of isolation, and generally sympathetic to orders requesting luxury items such as cream cheese, canned lobster, canned mushrooms, and the like.

Consumable supplies are difficult to document in terms of point of origin. Basically, the department, or regional headquarters (all Alaskan posts belonged, during most of the time period under consideration, to the Department of the Columbia), collected orders for commissary supplies and submitted them to the Adjutant General's office in Washington, which then routed them to the particular depots which specialized in those particular items (Frankford, Pennsylvania, and St. Louis seem to have been major depots). Bids for a given item would be solicited by the depots, the products produced, delivered, and shipped. There were no annual order lists for specific forts, or for that matter, for departments. Except for beef, which was shipped on the hoof to Skagway and then via the White Pass and Yukon Railroad, and potatoes (except for an abortive attempt to procure local potatoes--the quality was judged unsatisfactory!), there is no record of specific shipments of foodstuffs to Fort Egbert, though alternative means of transportation are discussed at length in numerous memoranda.

Also included in this record group were proceedings of General Courts Martial held on the post. There were few soldiers court martialed, and the records of their trials indicated little about circumstances of life at the fort. A series of accompanying letters indicated, predictably, that drinking was a problem and that there were four saloons.

RG 159, Office of the Inspector General. This file contained records of post inspections, but many were missing, and what few remained contained almost no detail. Dale Floyd, the Archivist of this branch, indicated that post inspections were essentially discretionary in their detail, and obviously the reports that remain are terse. Additional memoranda focused on the perennial problem of "wholesome" recreation for the men, and difficulties in stocking the New Post Exchange (Building 30) with such luxury goods as oranges, apples, and eggs, when a great percentage of these were at the time sold to civilians at Eagle. The command outside of Alaska objected to such practices.

RG 98, Post Returns. The post returns constitute the entire contents of the record group. They (like the post inspection reports are discretionary in content, brief and not enlightening) were consulted for specific information when dates or names were needed to gain access to other files in other record groups.

RG 56, Bureau of Customs, Special Agents' Reports, 1867-1916. These were read for the 1899-1911 time period. While instructive as to names and locations of special agents, there is little detail in the files except for difficulties with patronage appointees and accounts of corruption in the Customs Service in Alaska at the time. The reports concentrate on Sitka and then Juneau, where the main offices were located. While agents at Fort Yukon, Circle, Eagle, and Fortymile are mentioned, there is nothing relating to the military, and there are no customs/import records in this record group. Also in this group are 16 rolls of microfilm ending with the year 1903. These were scanned during the relevant years, but they mainly concern border and customs jurisdictional disputes with Canada in the White Pass-Skagway area.

RG 36, Bureau of Customs, Reports, and Business Transactions (1877-1912). Ten ledgers comprise this file. All they show is total cost of goods brought to Alaska for a given fiscal year, as reported from Sitka (and later Juneau). Presumably, the records of individual ports of entry, if they have been preserved, would be either in Juneau or Seattle.

RG 41, Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation, Field Office Records, Steamers on the Yukon. This is merely a record of names of ships and names and locations of their

owners. No specifics were recorded as to the nature of the trade or the cargo.

In addition to abstracting data from the above record groups, some detailed information was copied and now resides in the Alaska Resources Library, Anchorage. This includes lists of (1) cabins (and the owner's and government's valuation) taken for the fort reservation, dated July 1899; (2) estimated Quartermaster's supplies for fiscal years 1902-1908 enumerated in terms of numbers requested, on hand, and ordered; (3) quantities of subsistence stores consumed July 1-December 31, 1900; (4) garrison and field rations, 1905; and (5) structures and their appraised costs in 1926 and 1932 as well as their final disposition.

The Alaska Resources Library, Anchorage, also has on microfilm record groups 98 and 92, portions of which were consulted at NARS, as well as RG 94: Records of the Adjutant General's Office; 153: Records of Judge Advocate General; and, RG 393: U.S. Army Continental Command.

These sources, as well as those listed in Appendix I, represent additional untapped information on the history of the fort.

RESULTS OF HISTORIC RESEARCH

The United States Army set out by establishing a military post at the confluence of Mission Creek and the Yukon River to serve northern and interior Alaska. By the early 1890's, gold had been discovered in the Fortymile and Birch Creek districts, attracting migrants to the region and exhibiting evidence, for the first time, of the mineral wealth along the upper Yukon. This potential, of course, was confirmed in astounding magnitude by the Klondike discovery of 1896, and the ensuing stampede. Mineral resources remote from the southeastern coast of Alaska held promise for a continued population influx, and supplemented native fur trade as the assumed economic base of the area for non-natives.

The increased population in the interior had brought with it problems of the maintenance of civil order. Representatives of the Federal government, restricted mainly to customs officials, were very scarce in the Interior. The quasi-judicial system which operated was that of a miners' meeting, which often was vigilante in style. There was

certainly a need for some kind of government representation, if in fact any claim was to be made on the territory. A military investigation of the upper Yukon in 1897-98 by Captain R. H. Ray and Lieutenant W. P. Richardson resulted in a recommendation for a semi-military government in the area to "support the civil authorities, control the Yukon River, prevent smuggling, and provide law and order" (Grauman 1977:77). Captain Ray had observed that miners' meetings were no longer an effective institution in terms of social control. Military posts in the Interior were also an urgent consideration since plans were already under way for the construction of a communication system to link Alaska with the rest of the world. People building the network lines would need basis of operation, supply points, and most of all, a steady assurance of protection for themselves and the lines as well.

Thus, a post at Mission Creek was eminently logical since the location could serve as a center of domestic law and order in interior Alaska and its proximity to the Canadian border would allow for control of smuggling and protection of commercial interests along the river. The irony lies in the rapidity with which Alaska, Alaska's needs as the military saw it, and the military's needs changed. In essentially the time it took Fort Egbert to erect its physical plant, the gold fields moved, a more stable population settled in the adjoining town, other branches of the Federal government sent more available representatives for the civilian population, the threat of foreign incursions substantially lessened and the telegraphic lines were built. Not too many years later (1908), a wireless system was introduced and the military justification of the fort, tenuous enough by that time, completely collapsed. (There was still good justification in social and economic terms, for the city of Eagle, established in 1898, depended on the post for a good deal of its port commerce, economic base through contracts, jobs, and some business establishments, and the presence of a doctor, hardly a minor consideration.) However, by that time (1908), the fort had taken on a life of its own, and was maintained for another three years. Thus, when cost accounting caught up with Fort Egbert, it seemed to cut it down in mid-life, and it was not a frontier outpost but rather a relatively up-to-date installation that was disassembled. In many ways, though, the salient and remarkable point is that the military could disband it on as short notice as it did.

The remainder of the chapter is structured into topical sections reporting data on (1) the development of the fort as reflected in its physical plant; (2) the importation of consumable items such as fuel, fodder, and food for animals and people; (3) means of transportation; (4) civilian employment; (5) the tenor of life at the fort, as reflected by fort activities; and, (6) the declining years of the fort.

The Physical Plant

The process of establishing a fort required considerable planning and preparation. Formal action began in March of 1899, and a letter from G. D. Meiklejohn, Acting Secretary of War, directed Richardson, now a captain, to,

"...proceed...to Eagle City, Alaska and there survey, stake out and declare a military reservation of at least 2 mile square. From the best information obtainable, the most suitable location would be near the present town site on the east bank of American Creek. Should you find upon personal examination that a better site can be found on Mission Creek, to the west of the city, you are authorized to locate this reservation on that Creek. Should there not be sufficient timber on the ground selected by you for fuel and timber, you will, in addition, survey, stake out and declare a timber reservation..." (Meiklejohn 1899a).

Another letter from Meiklejohn followed shortly. Addressed to Richardson at Circle City, it instructed him to bring "a sufficient detachment to prepare the necessary buildings for sixty (60) men and two (2) officers including the necessary storehouses and other accessory buildings" (Meiklejohn 1899b).

The directive further specified that the buildings be of logs and to purchase lumber for floors and roofs. Although troop labor was to be used as much as possible, Richardson was extended permission to hire outside labor if necessary. A credit of \$5,000 was extended at the Assistant U. S. Treasurer, San Francisco, and the possibility of additional requisitions for funds from the Quartermaster General was alluded to. The Quartermaster General was to receive progress reports, descriptions and plans of buildings, and financial updates were to be sent (Ibid.).

No record was encountered of these first studies, nor whether the \$5,000 construction budget proved adequate.

Meanwhile, Ray, now a Major of the 8th Infantry, was assigned to command the district of North Alaska. From Washington, D.C., he addressed a memorandum to the Quartermaster General of the army detailing equipment to be ordered, and specifying "I respectfully request that the horses may be purchased from eastern Oregon and Western Montana, of the native breed known as 'Cyuse' [sic]" (Ray 1899).

Ray (Ibid.) requested:

- "12 Mules, team.
- 14 Horses, pack.
- 8 Oxen, work.
- 3 Escort Wagons, complete.
- 6 Single set Lead Harness.
- 6 Single set Wheel Harness.
- 14 Aparajos [sic] with blankets complete.
(An aparejo was a type of pack saddle which featured two pockets on either side of the animal, and thus allowed all kinds of large vegetable matter to be used for padding, and was infinitely adjustable.)
- 5 Ox yokes, complete.
- 20 Ox yokes, bows.
- 10 Log chains.
- 2 Logging trucks.
- 3 Logging Bob-sleds.
- 10 Dog sleds.
- 20 Single set Dog Harness, complete, with wire cable traces.
- 1 Bob-sled, road, (light).
- 2 Extra wheels, escort wagon, rear.
- 2 Extra wheels, escort wagon, front.
- 3 Spare poles, escort wagon.
- 6 Spare poles, bob-sled.
- 1 Ambulance, complete with harness.
- 1 Traveling sled (horse), for C. O.
- 6 Whips, mule.
- 6 Whip stocks.
- 6 Whip lashes.
- 2 Carts & Harness.
- 2 Riding saddles.
- 2 Dory Boats, 14 ft.
- 12 cars, 12 foot."

The following day a telegram signed by Ludington (1899), the Quartermaster General, to the Chief Quartermaster General in San Francisco set forth another list, probably the one sent by Ray, and mentioned that the expedition would outfit and embark from San Francisco. The request was for:

- "24 team mules,
- 30 pack horses,
- 16 work oxen,
- 6 escort wagons complete,
- 12 single sets each lead and wheel harness complete,
- 30 aparejos with blankets complete,
- 10 ox yokes complete,
- 40 ox yoke bows,
- 20 log chains,
- 4 logging trucks,
- 6 logging bob-sleds,
- 20 dog sleds,
- 40 single sets dog harness complete with wire cable traces,
- 2 bob-sleds, light road,
- 4 each/rear and front extra wheels and
- 6 spare poles escort wagon,
- 12 spare poles bob-sled,
- 2 ambulances complete to harness,
- 1 traveling horse sled for C. O.,
- 12 mule whips,
- 12 each whip stock and lashes,
- 4 carts and harness,
- 4 riding saddles,
- 4 fourteen foot Dory boats,
- 24 twelve foot oars."

Mules, escort wagons, and wagon harnesses were to be shipped from Chickamauga, Georgia, but if these had not arrived in time for Ray's departure, he was to be furnished supplies from the depot at the Presidio. Scott Benjamin of Seattle, presumably a dealer, was recommended as a source for the cayuses; he had supplied pack horses for the Glenn and Abercrombie expeditions. Subject to the approval of the Department Commander, permission was granted to independently purchase those items that were not obtainable through regular military sources (Ibid.). Acquisition of goods through the Quartermaster will be discussed in greater length later. Basically, however, items not obtained through the various, specialized national depots

or through competitive bids on a regional basis were purchasable on the general marketplace. If a commanding officer, or one with more limited authority, requested a specific item, it was presumed that he knew what he was talking about, and such orders were rarely questioned.

Details on whether Ray's supplies were obtained as requested are lacking, and Richardson proceeded to Mission Creek with a detachment of 25 men to be joined by Ray himself in late summer. Originally called the "camp at Eagle City," a settlement was established on June 19. The camp was officially named Fort Egbert on June 7, 1899, as a result of a War Department communique, in honor of Lieutenant Harry C. Egbert, lately killed in Manila. Following a survey of the site, it was found that some property to be condemned for military purposes was already in private hands; Eagle City, with its collection of miners' cabins, had grown toward the bluff. Accordingly, Richardson, the camp commander, posted a notice advising the townsfolk of his intention to appropriate the land involved. Cabin owners were directed to remove their buildings immediately or they could remain there for 60 more days, if they applied to the Commanding Officer if the site was not needed at once (Richardson 1899a). In a letter dated July 7, Richardson (1899b) wrote to the Adjutant General Washington that

"...There are 33 [figures show 32 cabins listed and other authors indicate there were 38], cabins on this tract for which the owners expect some compensation...Most of the cabins are small and worth but little. They will not average more than 60 to 70 dollars per cabin, and incidental to their building, considerable work has been done in clearing the ground for post uses. The amount expended will be fully compensated for by this work, and the material received; and the intermediate saving to the Government of the increased expense of transporting building material to the higher ground further up the hill. The location there (on the ridge between the town and American Creek), beyond all entries [sic], would, furthermore, in addition to being exposed in winter, involve for all time the laborious task of transporting material and supplies, including water for post uses, up hill."

How easy the ensuing settlement was or what the Army finally paid for the cabins is not known. It is likely that the owners, who would have been relatively pragmatic

in regard to their housing, and having tested the authorities with an outrageous valuation, would have settled for something closer to what the government offered. The only difficulty in land acquisition encountered by the military at Eagle City was the area just at the mouth of Mission Creek, on the upriver side. The flats formed by this small delta were occupied by Carl M. Johanson, who ran a sawmill there, having settled in Eagle in 1898. Unfortunately, much of the detailed material was not studied because of time constraints. Most of the relevant information is on microfilm in the Alaska Resources Library. Briefly, Johanson fought the Army's claim to the land he had legitimately patented (in contrast to the various miners' cabins). The land was contested over a period of several years, with Johanson corresponding with the Adjutant General's office in D.C., and enlisting the aid of Senator Knute Nelson of (Duluth) Minnesota (presumably Johansen's home town) as well. Ultimately, while the acreage was severely reduced, cut from 50 acres to 18, he was able to keep his sawmill and other buildings, having argued the value of his service to the townsfolk of Eagle, and the general flood-prone nature and swampiness (hence the military undesirability) of his land. Although the battle raged well into 1902, Johansen left some time thereafter. By 1908 neither a town list of residents nor the deeds on file with the townsite trustee show his name or the piece of land in question (Deeds 1908). Several recommendations were made by the military to purchase the land between 1906 and 1908, although no appropriation was made by Congress as late as 1910. Money for purchase was not included in the 1911 estimates. However, no information was found in the records which indicated that the military ever purchased it (Anonymous 1910c).

At any rate, we know that Richardson's men built three Officer's Quarters (Buildings 1, 3, and 5), an Administration Building (#6), the Quartermaster's Warehouse (#12), a Post Hospital (#20), Barracks (#21), a Bakery (#22a), and a Sawmill (#23) in 1899, and that their initial inefficiency resulted in hasty construction and necessitated subsequent repairs. (The buildings listed reflect the appraiser's records of 1932, and do not necessarily agree with other figures. As in many of these records, information is often contradictory.)

The establishment of a permanent camp at Eagle City, and the growth of the fort there, meant that a steady influx of goods imported from the lower 48 states would be

required. While the records examined at the National Archives did not supply much detail at all as to the erection of buildings, how many, if any, civilians were employed, and other such details, they did contain the records of the Quartermaster General. These files are somewhat incomplete, and better for some years than others. However, they given an indication, often in minute detail, of the flow of a certain class of item ordered by and sent to the military at Eagle.

The Quartermaster's office dealt basically with non-perishable, non-consumable, relatively permanent goods, and secondarily with such items as fuel and animal food. Thus, construction materials, tools, clothing, livestock, and kerosene were under the jurisdiction of the Quartermaster, as opposed to flour, chewing tobacco, and thread. The Quartermaster's office ran through the administrative strata, so that the Post Quartermaster communicated to the Chief Quartermaster on the Departmental level, who in turn dealt with the Quartermaster General in Washington, D. C. The departmental level needs further explanation. At the time, the military was divided into administrative units along geographic lines; these were changed at a much later date to correspond with the numerical armies of World War II and still in nomenclatural use. When Fort Egbert was first established, there was a Department of Alaska which administered the Territory's military affairs from Fort. St. Michael, and on the level beneath it, Egbert and others comprised the District of North Alaska. Whether St. Michael proved too remote from its constituent forts, and from the lower 48 states to function as a satisfactory administrative center, or whether the military presence of eight companies was too small to justify Alaska's separateness, the Department of Alaska was abolished by 1902, and Alaska was administered thenceforth for the military life of Fort Egbert by the Department of the Columbia, in Vancouver (also called Vancouver Barracks), Washington (there was a time, still earlier, when Alaska was administered by the Department of the Pacific in San Francisco, but this does not concern Fort Egbert).

The Department of the Columbia governed not only military installations in Alaska but also those in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Faced with a requisition or a special request from a Post Quartermaster, the Departmental Quartermaster had several options. (1) He would contact the various depots around the country to locate the goods. (2) If these were not readily available, the Department or

occasionally the depot would let out bids with specifications, subject to review by the Quartermaster General's office, or occasionally, the Departmental Quartermaster would procure such items locally and directly, or even extend such authorization to the post. Thus, if an item was hard to get, or the post had run out, permission to purchase supplies locally would be sent from Washington, D. C., through the Department to the Post Quartermaster. This was how Fort Egbert bought its supply of native boots, and occasionally replenished its kerosene stock. (3) The Departmental Quartermaster would make up an annual list of items needed for all or most of the forts, and solicit bids in the vicinity of the Departmental headquarters to supply the various outposts. He would then arrange for shipment. Sometimes the bidding was restricted to a locality, but still administered by the Department. This, of course, saved on shipping.

For the calendar year 1900, there is scant information, and the only record is a list of additional "Arctic Clothing" which was ordered. The kit for each man consisted of a pair of muskrat gauntlets, a fur cap, a Mackinaw overcoat, an oilskin coat, a pair of buckskin gloves and a pair of mittens of the same material, a sou'wester hat, a pair of moccasins, a pair of German socks, a pair of oilskin trousers, a sweater, and a pair of shoepacks (Ludington 1900a). The men were to be given an extra \$30 clothing allowance to cover the special issue.

The years 1900 and 1901 saw a great deal of additional construction at the fort, specifically a Guardhouse (#7), an Ice House (#10), Quartermaster's Stables (#14), two sets of Noncommissioned Officer's Quarters (#18 and 19), Quarters for Civilian Employees (#24), and a Post Exchange (#32). Later a Commissary (#8) and an Ordnance Storehouse (#9) were built. Doors, windows, sheet iron, nails, and the like would have most likely been requisitioned through the Quartermaster Corps, but little remains of Post Quartermaster submissions for fiscal year 1902. We do know that Lieutenant Wallace M. Craigie, then Quartermaster at Eagle, made a mess of the forms. They arrived at St. Michael late, and unclear, and poorly filled out, and the Chief Quartermaster at St. Michael wrote back:

"Great care should be exercised in the preparation of requisitions, and the footnotes on the forms, carefully observed, in order that the wants and necessities of the Post may be thoroughly understood by higher authority, and

to avoid their return for explanation which, in this Department would entail great loss of time and, perhaps, confusion....

"Your estimate for electrical supplies, for the proposed plant, fails to state the [distance] for the Feed wires, the size of the Buildings or the amount of interior wiring. The Dynamo, called for provides for 200, 16-candle power lights, while only 400 incandescent Globes for the same, were estimated for; it is thought that each lamp would require at least 3 extra Globes. There is no mention of a Boiler at the Post of sufficient steam capability to run the plant, or whether one is required" (Bingham 1901).

The summer of 1901 saw the submission of requisitions for supplies for construction of the telegraph line from Eagle to Valdez. This was done by the Signal Corps, which was quite separate from the Infantry companies who ran Fort Egbert. The construction crews for the telegraph line operated out of Forts Egbert and Liscum, and received their supplies through those forts. However, the building of the telegraph line is a separate story in itself and detailed discussion of Signal Corps activity is not in order here. In later years, Signal Officers were stationed at Fort Egbert to man the telegraph station, and an apparent function of the Infantry was to be able to run search and rescue missions along the lines, as well as to guard them.

As of November 1901, Fort Egbert was staffed by a 1st Lieutenant (Benjamin F. Tillman), a 2nd Lieutenant, a Contract Surgeon, and 135 enlisted men. There were also 16 horses, 28 mules, an ox, and nine wagons (estimate of Quartermaster's Supplies, November 20, 1901, RG 92, #89, #13, and #513).

While no requisition sheets exist for fiscal year 1902, we find that during that year the fort had a considerable surplus of various items. These included stationery, a horse rake and mower (found to be useless in Eagle), 1,000 pounds of 4 x 9-foot copper sheets, and over 400 pairs of shoe and boot pacs which the men would not wear (Office of the Quartermaster General 1902). These were to be shipped back to the States for redistribution. Other surplus included the ox (who was most likely auctioned off in Eagle, as suggested by Tillman, the New Quartermaster), 500 pounds of tanbark (it was suggested by the Vancouver office that it be spread on the roads or burned), and materials to build a water works system. It was Tillman's

opinion that such a system could never work, because of the climate, and that at any rate skilled people from the lower 48 states would be required to install it. He felt that there was no one competent to do it locally. Furthermore, not all the parts had arrived yet. The Chief Quartermaster's advice was to hold onto the materials for the water works, as it might be made to supply the garrison during the summertime (Ibid.). Goods that were ordered included 66 wolf robes, lined with canvas and measuring 7 x 8 feet, 26 blankets for pack saddles, and 40 mules, in addition to supplies for the Storehouse (#11), Shop (#13), Wagon Shed (#15), and Noncommissioned Officer's Quarters (#16) erected that year (Telegrams, July 24, July 26, August 6, August 27, 1902, RG 92, E89, #146426).

Meanwhile, in addition to a series of telegraphed orders for assorted supplies, the Signal Corps crews were acquiring large numbers of livestock. In 1901 they had bought 80 dogs, 40 sets of harnesses, and 16 sleds for use on the line (Acting Chief Signal Officer 1901). The next June, William "Billy" Mitchell, the lieutenant in charge of the construction, wired for 30 pack mules to be shipped him, and the Department agreed to supply 15 (Randall 1902a). It was thought that the animals would cost between \$100 and \$125 each, but the Quartermaster in Seattle found some in Oregon for \$80 a head, unbroken, but "a fine lot of mules" with many more where they came from (Bingham 1902). Late the following month Mitchell got in touch with the Department in Vancouver, requesting 10 more mules and five aparejos, complaining of the shipment of green mules, and noting that two had already died (Jacobs 1902a). From his camp on the Chistochena, Captain G. C. Bunnell (1902) also ordered 20 dogs from the Yukon River (apparently Copper River dogs were not considered as good), 20 sets of dog harnesses, and 6 sleds. On the open market at Eagle, Mitchell bought a sewing machine for \$70 to sew canvas on horse blankets (Ludington 1902), 20 pairs of snowshoes for \$10 a pair, 15 stoves, two grindstones, and 24 saw files under emergency conditions (Hathaway 1902). Presumably winter had caught up with him.

The Fort Egbert requisitions for fiscal year 1903 reflect a settling-in process taking place. Blacksmith tools were ordered for the shop and a concrete foundation was built for the engine at the sawmill. Window glass was replaced, storm windows put up, cracks in walls caulked with oakum, and repair work done on many of the buildings. Floors were covered with cocoa matting, wallpaper applied,

and terra cotta pipe joints used to replace flues, cracked by the extremes in weather. Material was ordered to recharge the chemical fire extinguishers, manufactured by the Lindgreen-Mann Chemical Fire Engine Company of Chicago, in use at the fort (Office of the Quartermaster General 1903). An ambulance was shipped from the St. Asaph Depot, Virginia, and a two-horse buckboard, acquired by the Department on special orders (Ludington 1903).

Buildings erected in 1903 included Officers' Quarters (#2) and a Granary (#17).

A description of the post in April of 1904 describes water as being obtained under contract with the Rio Grande Water and Power Company of Eagle Pass at a cost of \$50 a month (Humphrey 1904). This is problematical, for the names of contractor and town are somewhat suspicious, but the water delivery system is believable. Either the name is some Eagleite's homesick joke, or some clerk in the Quartermaster General's office in Washington was bleary-eyed from copying. An account of the sewer system which says "No sewer system. Drainage into exterior receptacles thence removed by scavengers. Some pipes drain into cesspools" (Ibid.) sounds about right, for 1904 was the year of Fort Egbert's sewage crisis. It seems that during the summer the cesspools were draining into the porous soil, and endangering the water supply near the sawmill. The commanding officer of the post wired for emergency shipment (Hodgson 1904a) over the White Pass and Yukon route (rather than the slower but cheaper Yukon River via St. Michael, preferred, especially in summertime) of a sanitary cart and 50 extra heavy galvanized iron barrels. These were ordered from the Jeffersonville, Indiana, depot (Littel 1904) and a report from the Eagle post in mid-August describes the men of the garrison sinking new water wells, and using the dump cart for the disposal of all waste water from kitchens and bathrooms (Jones 1904).

This was also a big year for construction. In a letter to the Army Chief of Staff, C. F. Thompson (1904) of the Quartermaster General's office described the logistics of building in Alaska, "...the bulk of material,--lumber for framing, siding, etc., and shingles for roof--could be obtained in the vicinity of the posts and cut on post sawmills. Hardware, paper, corrugated sheet iron, flooring, interior sheathing, door and window frames, sash, etc., would have to be purchased on Puget Sound and sent to the posts--for Fort Egbert over the White Pass route...."

This seems to have been done, for the requisitions for fiscal year 1904 show large amounts of hardware ordered (though no indication of doors, sheet iron, etc.), and the list of buildings begun that year is long indeed: Officers' Quarters (#4), Engineer's Quarters (#25), a Commissary Warehouse (#26), an Oil House (#27), another double set of Officers' Quarters (#28), and a Telegraph Office (#29). The number of men stationed at the fort had dropped, however, with the rotation out of two companies from the 7th Infantry and rotation in of two companies belonging to the 8th Infantry. There was now a Captain, a First Lieutenant, a Second Lieutenant, and a Contract Surgeon comprising the officers, and 111 enlisted men. Livestock records show there were four horses and 12 mules there as well.

It is ironic that arrangements to ship all manner of hand firefighting equipment should have been made in the spring of 1904, prior to the only major fire at Fort Egbert --the burning of the bakery in September. Thus, 100 G. I. firebuckets and 15 Stempel Army Fire Extinguishers were sent in early summer, and additional charges were supplied for the liquid chemical fire extinguishers to all the forts in December (Hodgson 1904b).

The effects of the bakery fire are evident in the Quartermaster's requisitions for the following year. Among things ordered were seven Jack screws at an estimated cost of \$215 each, "required at post for moving old buildings away from new, for fire protection" (Office of the Quartermaster General 1905), and 600 pounds of asbestos "Millboard" for fireproofing.

Another innovation was in the air, in that a new water system, apparently recommended and described in a missing letter from the Quartermaster's Office at Fort Egbert dated May 17, 1905, was under construction. Funds were being allocated that fall in the Quartermaster General's office with \$7,580 allotted August 7 for installation of a water supply, \$2,000 on September 6 for "temporary provisions," and another \$2,500 on November 10 (Quartermaster General 1906). No specifics were discussed in terms of the use of this money, but one gains the impression that supplies were long overdue, and that pipes and fixtures had not arrived. However, out of eight heater stoves (Dakota wrought iron Army-heater #5, J. Van's Patent October 26, 1875, W. W. Montague, San Francisco, California Agents) requested, two are said to be required for "pumping station" (Old Pumphouse, #45) and two "for

heating buildings where water tanks for post supply are about to be installed. See letter this office dated May 17, 1905" (Ibid.). The latter building is likely #40, the Tankhouse. Five "oil stoves (Wickless, blue flame, Dangler Stove and Mfg. Co., Cleveland, Ohio) required for providing circulation of hot air around water and sewer pipes" (Ibid.) costing \$60 each were also ordered. However, there is no record of orders for pipe, redwood, or a pump. Perhaps the surplus of 1902 was in fact used at this time. Other construction activity as evidenced in requisition forms is the New Hospital (#34), which had 55 storm sashes ordered for it; a New Guardhouse (#33), which received 20 storm sashes in two sizes, two Dakota heating stoves, and 110 dark olive window shades for summer nights. Forty of these shades were also ordered for a Barracks, presumably the former Post Exchange converted at that time for use of the Signal Corps. Missing is reference to other structures erected that year, including the New Bakery (#22b) and the New Post Exchange (#30).

During the month of August, two separate bids relating to post construction were submitted. The first, of a more or less urgent nature, was entitled "Special Estimate for Open Straw Shed," perhaps the prototype for Building #31 (its dimensions are given as 20 feet by 40 feet, and 20 feet high). To be built as cheaply as possible, it was to be made of 2,000 feet of sawlogs from the post sawmill, at a cost of \$40 per thousand; a roof of 84 pieces of 26-inch by 8-foot corrugated iron costing 50¢ a piece, 50 pounds of each of twenty penny and ten penny nails (10¢ a pound) and 25 pounds of nails with lead washers for the roof (\$3.75) (Catts 1905).

The second bid is interesting because it may underlie the conversion of the old hospital into the laundry. In a letter to the Adjutant at Fort Egbert, B. S. Scher, then Quartermaster, submitted plans for a post laundry which he urged to be built during the fiscal year. He (Scher 1905d) wrote,

"The enormous prices charged in Alaska for laundry work seem prohibitive to the enlisted men, and it has been found necessary to have the work done by a post laundry run under supervision of the post exchange.

"Soldiers are doing the work, and have become very proficient therein; but there is no building, or suitable room in this post for the work.

"So far a room in the barracks, much needed for other purposes, has been set aside for a laundry room, but it is too small, and--at times--when clothing cannot be dried out-doors renders it impossible for the men to get through with one weeks [sic] washing before another is waiting for them...."

Perhaps this was the impetus, or at least reflected the strength of post sentiment, behind that specific conversion.

Finally, there is mention of a Studebaker Water Wagon at a cost of \$225. It had a tank capacity of 400 gallons, and was built so as to be removable from the running gear of the wagon, for use on sled runners in winter. Its purpose was "to deliver water daily at the quarters of officers, kitchens, and barracks, for cooking and drinking purposes" (Office of the Quartermaster General 1905). The water wagon stands complemented by the dump cart, also a Studebaker "Improved garbage wagon #8008."

By this time, the fort had grown to its maximum size of 10 officers (a major, three captains, three 1st Lieutenants, and three 2nd Lieutenants), and 146 men. There were also 19 horses, 61 mules, and 39 sled dogs on post.

Requisition forms for 1906 indicate that a water system had already been installed in part, and that it was in the process of being expanded. One and one-half pages are devoted to pipe elbows, reducers, plugs, etc., all ordered for the purpose of repairing the water system. Additionally, 700 feet of cast iron pipe was needed "to replace busted pipe" (Office of Quartermaster General 1906). Of this, 500 feet were of 2-inch pipe and 100 feet each were of inch and inch-and-one-half pipe. Presumably in an effort to stave off the disaster of the previous winter, a number of one-inch "bends" were ordered, to make a steam coil for heating the water. Another possibility is that these were to be used for heating water for bathing, as 18 shower heads were ordered for use in the company bath house (Ibid.).

Lieutenant Harry Graham, in his Military Historical Sketch of Fort Egbert (1909), reported that the post had no sewage system, but that it relied solely on outhouses. However, it is clear that a more elaborate system had been planned, and as early as the winter of 1906 a Quartermaster General's (1906) report indicates that steps were

being taken toward planning such a system and preliminary information was being solicited. Even earlier, the fiscal year 1906 requisition sheets show eight latrine troughs for two companies having been ordered. The order elicited the following response from Departmental Headquarters:

"...though latrine troughs specified...would be of very little service that climate as same requires use of water. They are fourteen feet long. One is sufficient per company where they can be used at all. They are not adapted for removal by cleaning. How would they be cleaned in winter time? Dry earth system using cans or boxes which can be handled would seem to be what is required. If you still think troughs are best have some six feet long in stock at Seattle..." (Hodgson 1905a).

Rather than Scher, the Quartermaster, it was Major E. H. Plummer (1905a), the Commanding Officer, who telegraphed the reply,

"...will estimate complete water and sewage before completion. Can use troughs requested. Crude carbolic acid can be used instead of lime; trough emptying directly into sewer, making excavation wagon unnecessary. Water to be supplied by water wagon until system completed, troughs being emptied twice daily if necessary, as temporary arrangement for carrying off water from bathrooms and laundry has been very successful with temperature more than fifty (50) degrees below zero. By short extension of this arrangement the troughs of latrines at barracks, hospital and signal corps quarters can be emptied far enough away and conveyed into Mission Creek. Much better arrangement than earth boxes and can be continued next winter if system has not yet been completed. At least two (2) long troughs should be supplied. Short ones can be used at hospital, signal corps barracks, exchange and guard-house--four short ones--but recommend two (2) extra be sent to meet emergency. If supplied and have been used, should be examined for leaks. Method proposed is not experimental or theory but is working well at several stations."

In the end, eight 6-foot and four 14-foot troughs were sent, and the system appears to have been used, as evidenced by orders for barrels of carbolic acid in later years.

A great proportion of the requisitions for any year was for materials to repair harnesses, sleds, and other transportation-related objects. Tools, either worn out

or lost due to pilferage, were also constantly being repaired, replaced, or improvised. By 1906 one of the two sewing machines used for harness work had worn out entirely, and a new one, a Singer Saddlers and Shoemakers, at a cost of \$120 was ordered. Other large items included two hand carts, six Yukon sleds, and both axles and trees for the dump cart, which was clearly getting very hard use.

No new construction was begun in the summer of 1906, although apparently the New Hospital (#34) was completed then. The year 1907 saw a small round of building, including work at the New Hospital (#34), the completion of the Hospital Sergeant's Quarters (#35), and the construction of a Lumber and Blacksmith Coal Shed (#41), apparently built of surplus materials at the post.

Estimate sheets show some work on the water/sewer system principally in the ordering of 15 more Dangler Heater Stoves, for heating the lines (Office of the Quartermaster General 1908). Three hundred feet of one-inch rubber hose were also ordered for some unspecified use on the water system. Orders for carbolic acid, to be used for "sewer and latrines" (Ibid.) and four barrels of lime, indicate that both varieties of waste disposal were in use.

The year 1907 was also a great year for replacement of worn out objects. New pots, pans, kettles, wash boilers, two new steel six-hole Arlington ranges for Officer's Quarters, and 18 Cole's Airtight heating stoves were ordered from Chicago. Sheets of steel, zinc, tin, and a quantity of solder were requisitioned, to repair less worn out stoves and utensils at the fort. More cocoa matting was needed for floors as well. Perhaps the largest single item ordered was a No. 6 size Village Hook and Ladder Truck, complete, and the justification accompanying the order (Ibid.) was strongly worded indeed:

"The importance of having this truck or one as completely equipped can not be overestimated. The only fire apparatus [sic] on hand consists of one 80 gal. chemical engine, 21 chemical fire extinguishers, 3 gal. capacity, hand grenade and kylfire extinguishers. The ladder(s) made at the post are unsatisfactory. The timber is soft, cracks, splits, and is almost useless for ladders, unless made too heavy for easy handling."

The truck, manufactured to the specifications of the Department Quartermaster, was shipped from Chicago and cost \$750.

The requisition forms for 1908 are the last series in the Quartermaster's records, but also the most extensive and seemingly, the most nearly complete. Though new construction that year was limited to a New Pumphouse (#38) and an Oil House (#39), clearly a great deal of activity that summer was devoted to repair and reconstruction, even to a greater degree than previously. Great quantities of fittings, joints, solder, and flux, as well as the tools, were needed for repairing the water line, and 1,620 feet of galvanized pipe (in sizes from 3/4" to 6") and 300 feet of wrought pipe (between 1/8" and 1/2" in diameter) were needed for plumbing and water line repairs (Office of Quartermaster General 1908). Pitch was required to prevent leaks on the water tanks, while repairs to the heater houses were to be made with sheet iron, and they were to be fireproofed with asbestos. The old water wagon tank was pronounced "old, decayed, and unsanitary" (Ibid.), and a new one with a capacity of 725 gallons was requested to be ordered from Studebaker. Also ordered from Studebaker was a new set of buckboard springs, and wagon beds of three escort wagons were also worn out and in need of replacement.

For the stables, 125 galvanized iron feed troughs were ordered "...to replace wooden feed troughs which are a constant source of trouble and expense, caused by animals nibbling the wood making frequent repairs necessary and absolute renewals once a year, wood troughs are unsanitary" (Ibid.).

Clearly in the mood for improvements, the Quartermaster called for a 22-gallon portable furnace and caldron, made by J. L. Mott Iron Works of New York City, "for cooking dog food (for 34 dogs) which is at present prepared in a 20-gallon tin boiler on a heating stove, which is unsatisfactory because of the time required (4 to 6 hours) and constant watchfulness during cooking to prevent burning" (Ibid.).

Vast quantities of stovepipes, dampers, and materials to repair stoves were needed, including more sheet steel to reline the 130 heater stoves on post, some of which needed relining two or three times during the course of a winter. Eighteen new Cole's Airtight Heaters were ordered as replacements, and also eight "Dakota" Heaters, built to take wood in 4-foot lengths--one for the Guardhouse (#33), one for the Tankhouse (#40), and two for the Hospital (#34). As fire protection for quarters and offices, sheets of

zinc and "aluminum stoveboards," the latter presumably insulated bases, were ordered.

Structural repairs included new window glass and locks for many of the post buildings, and hinges, hooks, and eyes to rehang and fasten the gates.

The offices and mess facilities underwent an overhaul. One hundred and fifty mess stools replaced the old benches and 20 standard Army mess tables (eight for each of the two infantry companies, two for the Post Exchange, and two for the post reading room) took the place of "unserviceable tables made of Alaskan lumber, warped, unsightly, and insanitary" (Ibid.).

The Quartermaster, Lieutenant G. R. Catts, ordered two new desks for his office, as well as a machine called the "Conqueror," which automatically numbered in consecutive order, and could duplicate and repeat numbers up to 10,000. Revolving and tilting office chairs were requested for unspecified offices, as well as 60 cuspidors to furnish offices, the Post Exchange, the Library, and the reading room. To better link the various offices with the officer's quarters, 24 door and desk bells, powered by electric batteries, were to be furnished.

The Singer sewing machine ordered as a replacement two years previously had not proved satisfactory for sewing the heavy leather harness. Thus, the Quartermaster ordered a \$300 Landis Lockstitch harness maker's sewing machine, made in St. Louis, and 10 dozen needles to fit it.

Apparently, ten pins was a popular form of recreation at Fort Egbert, for two sets with Lignum Vitae balls were ordered as replacements keeping the number of sets in the bowling alley as four.

From the Quartermaster's estimates for the fiscal year of 1909, one gains the impression of a post not strictly frontier in atmosphere any more. Furnishings and supplies were more standardized with garrisons in the States, and the men were expecting, and getting, a higher level of creative comfort; indeed, it sounds very luxurious for interior Alaska of that time.

The year 1909 saw a resurgence of a building boom, with two wings added to the 1902 Storehouse (#11), a large and expensive Gymnasium (#36), a new Heater House (#43/44),

and a Target House (#44/45). A description of the storage facilities exists from the Chief Commissary of the Department of the Columbia, though no Quartermaster's records survive. Colonel Edward E. Dravo visited various Alaskan posts in the summer of 1909, with an eye toward decreasing costs of fresh foods (his visit and findings are discussed in greater detail in the section on food). He (Dravo 1909) inspected the Subsistent Department at Fort Egbert on August 4th, and reported:

"...the main commissary storehouse consists of two office rooms, a small bedroom, a sales room, a warm storeroom and a cold storeroom. The building is of frame, covered in galvanized iron, and all the rooms excepting the cold storeroom are woodlined inside. In the warm storeroom are kept all articles that would be injured by freezing, and during cold weather a sufficient fire is kept in two large stoves therein to keep the temperature about the freezing point.

"There is a reserve subsistence storehouse at this post, a frame building covered in galvanized iron, consisting of one large room. In this half of the important supplies of the garrison is [sic] kept as a precaution against fire, and it is sufficiently removed to insure one or the other escaping. Both these buildings are very ample for their purpose. The neatness of these buildings and the orderly arrangement of supplies therein show good management and careful attention...

* * *

"Underneath the guard house is a celler 15' x 33', with board walls and floors, which serves as a storage place for fresh vegetables during the cold season. A thermometer is suspended in it from the guard room overhead, and the temperature is never allowed to go below 35 degrees. The Sergeant of the Guard is held responsible...

"There is a building for storage of fresh beef at the post, the lower floor, 23'6" x 36', having insulated walls, and the upper floor being an icehouse. At the end of this, by the door, is a 'lean to', 10' x 10', used as an issue room. This is a frame building with a shingle roof. In it the contractor is allowed to store his beef...

"The bakery is a frame building, covered with galvanized iron, is of ample size, well arranged for its purpose

and in good condition. It is equipped with one Middleby oven No. 2 which is in fair condition...As there was but this one oven at the post, the Purchasing Commissary at Seattle was cabled to ship one Blodgett oven to the commissary...."

This, then, was the course of development of the physical plant at Fort Egbert in its growth years. While the overview is spotty and at times incomplete, the minute scale that does appear, particularly in some of the Quartermaster's records, provides a rather gratifying bottom line from a salvage perspective.

Fuel and Fodder

As with durable goods, a fort's orders for animal food and fuel were handled through the Quartermaster's Office. The procedure for the various procurements was the same as normally let out by a depot, with a printed circular inviting competitive bids and specifying nature, quantity, method of delivery, and packaging. The Departmental Headquarters handled this bidding process, ordinarily, except in the case of locally procured fuel in Alaska.

The Forage and Bedding circular for fiscal year 1909, which specified that supplies for the North Alaskan forts be delivered to Seattle or Tacoma during the month of July 1908, contained the instructions and quantities for oats, bran, hay for forage, straw (or hay in lieu of straw) for bedding, and corn.

Oats were to be "graded white oats of the best quality or equal; old crop (so far as practicable, sound, dry, plump, clean, short, hard bright, sweet, and free from other grain). To be delivered in good, strong new burlap sacks, containing about 125 pounds each; the weight of sacks to become the property of the United States" (Contracts 1908a). It is further noted that oats for Alaskan forts were to be double sacked. Fort Egbert's requirement in 1909 was 183,000 pounds (Ibid.) as opposed to the 90,000-pound estimate submitted in 1901 for fiscal year 1903 (Office of Quartermaster General 1901).

Wheat bran "of the highest grade of the locality" was to be delivered, doubled sacked for Alaska, in 100-pound units. Fort Egbert required 30,000 pounds for fiscal year 1909 as opposed to the 10,000 ordered for fiscal year 1903.

Forage hay was specified as preferably "properly cured, bright, natural color, moderately fine, sound, crisp, clean, fresh, sweet smelling, with the flowering beads of the grasses present, and free from weeds, stick, dust and other foreign matter" (Contracts 1908a:1-2).

"The hay for Forts Davis, Egbert...will be compressed to a density of 82 cubic feet or less per ton, and bidders will state the density to which it will be compressed, i.e., the number of cubic feet per ton after compression... 10,000 pounds of hay for Fort Egbert must be delivered in bales of not more than 100 pounds each, and be compressed to a density of 82 cubic feet per ton" (Ibid.).

Severely compressed or not, the hay was to be in bales bound with at least three wires of not less than 12 gauge. Fort Egbert required 421,000 pounds of hay for 1909 (Ibid.) versus 222,000 pounds in 1903 (Office of Quartermaster General 1901).

Straw for bedding could be rye, oat, or wheat, while hay for that purpose was any good quality. Like the forage hay, it was to be compressed to an 82 cubic foot per ton or less density, to be baled and fastened as previously specified. A total of 98,000 pounds were required for 1909 (Contracts 1908a) as compared with 54,000 pounds in 1903 (Office of Quartermaster General 1901).

Corn, in 125-pound lots and double sacked, was ordered in a 91,000-pound quantity for 1909, as opposed to 30,000 pounds for 1903. It is interesting to note that, at least in 1909 (the only year for which a comparative table of forage orders by forts within the Department of the Columbia is available), the Alaskan forts were the only ones ordering corn, which was specified as being used to feed horses, mules, and oxen on the 1901 estimate (Office of Quartermaster General 1901).

A substance identified as "mineral oil for illuminating purposes," presumably kerosene, merited its own bid sheet (kerosene, while commonly extracted from petroleum, is in fact a component of most mineral oils). It was supported to be "water white" in color, with a specific gravity of not less than 48 degrees Baume and a flash point between 135° and 150°F. For fiscal year 1909, Fort Egbert required 13,800 gallons to be shipped in cases of two five-gallon cans described as:

"Cans: Each can to be of five gallons capacity, made throughout of "IX" bright charcoal tin, strictly first quality, the top to be equipped near one corner with a 1/4-inch gasket, and a closed screw cap with nozzle, of same or equally good and durable material as the can, and similar to those manufactured by the Record Manufacturing Co., of Conneaut, O., the Marsh faucet, manufactured by the Marsh Manufacturing Co., of New York, or other equally good and suitable device, such as will permit the testing of the oil without injury to the can and decanting thereof without waste. Each can to be equipped with a suitable handle. Weight of cans to be not less than three (3) pounds each. For shipment to posts in Alaska, the entire outer surface of the cans to be coated thoroughly with a rust-proof paint, varnish, or lacquer.

"Cases: To contain two cans each, and to be made of 7/8 inch pine throughout, dressed on the outside, close jointed, well nailed with not less than 8d nails, and of such size as to permit the packing of two cans in each case, the cans to fit tightly along the sides, be held firmly against the ends of the case by inserting between the cans a loose pine board, the full width and height of a can, and of such thickness to insure compactness. A strip of pine of proper dimensions to be placed between the tops of the cans and the lid of the case, to protect the screw cap and nozzle" (Contracts 1908b).

The contract for this particular fiscal year was let out to the Standard Oil Company of San Francisco, which agreed to provide a total of 170,050 gallons of mineral oil, two five-gallon cans to a case, for shipment at the wharves of Seattle and Portland. The cost was 27-3/4¢ per gallon, the three-quarters of a cent to cover rust proof paint on the cans (Miller 1908).

In the Department of the Columbia, a single bid sheet was issued for fuel, fuel oil, gasoline, and dog food. The specific articles in question were: hardwood, gasoline, soft wood, soft coal for domestic purposes (used in furnaces, and stoves for heating and cooking), soft coal for steam purposes (used to fire boilers in pump stations, power plants and the like), bituminous coal for blacksmith purposes, fuel oil, charcoal, coke, cornmeal, bacon, and rice. The bituminous coal for heating and power generation was supplied to all forts save those in interior Alaska (but including Alaskan stations on both coasts) and the wood fuel bids covered were only for forts in the States.

Thus, after an early attempt to procure wood Department-wide, Forts Egbert and Gibbon handled their fuel needs separately, as will be discussed below. Gasoline was in very low demand, the internal combustion engine presumably not having yet been fully adopted by the Army. Blacksmithing coal was bid out under the separate fuel circular for Forts Egbert and Gibbon and the amount ordered seem to have fluctuated somewhat. Thus, 3,000 pounds were requisitioned for Fort Egbert for fiscal year 1909 (Contracts 1908d), as opposed to 5,000 pounds for fiscal year 1903 (Contracts 1902).

However, it seems fairly clear that the coal was shipped in larger quantities than could be consumed in a year, and reordered as needed. Coke does not seem to have been supplied to Alaskan forts, but Fort Egbert used a small amount of charcoal, though for what purpose is not clear. Five hundred pounds were ordered for fiscal year 1909, packed in sacks of unspecified size or material and shipped from Washington State (Contracts 1908d).

Dog food was an important procurable item. During the first year of the fort's existence, permission was requested to obtain both dogs and dog food for the fort. It was estimated that \$500 would be required for the animals and \$200 for fish to feed them, though there is no mention of how many dogs or bundles of fish this would buy (Wright 1899).

In an estimate submitted two years later, for fiscal year 1903, we learn that Fort Egbert maintained its dogs only partly on their native diet; 1,825 pounds each of bacon, corn meal, and rice were ordered at that time (Office of Quartermaster General 1901). Two thousand pounds of dried salmon were purchased from local Indians for a total of \$300 in fiscal year 1906. It is not clear whether fish was used as trail food or also at the post, to supplement the imported bacon and grains, though the latter is likely, per the reference to cooking for dogs in the previous section. In the order placed for fiscal year 1909, we learn that the fort required 14,000 pounds each of bacon and rice, but that no corn meal was ordered (Contracts 1908c). This was supplemented by locally purchased salmon, of an unspecified quantity, which cost \$1,050 (Baxter 1908).

Wood for heating was also purchased, when possible, on contract. The 1908 circular for fuel bids, written

specifically for interior conditions, is interesting for some details. Wood for Fort Egbert was to be all spruce, while that for Fort Gibbon could be either spruce or birch. It was to be in four foot lengths and split to a diameter of under 6 inches and while wood for Fort Gibbon was not allowed to be rafted there, there was no such prohibition for Fort Egbert. Upon arrival at the fort, it was to be piled by the contractor at a designated spot or spots within the fort (Contracts 1908d). Thus, it would appear that a rather small amount of time was devoted by soldiers at the post to keeping the buildings heated. Prices paid by the Army for wood contracts do not seem to have varied too greatly from year to year. During fiscal year 1902 a total of 1,400 cords of wood were bought at \$11.39 per cord for 1,000 cords and \$11.70 a cord for 400 cords from another contractor (Jacobs 1902b). The contract for fiscal year 1903 was awarded to Herman Meyer of Eagle to provide 1,800 cords at \$12.35 a cord (Jacobs 1902c). Shortly thereafter the Chief Quartermaster of the Department of the Columbia tried to cancel the contract, presumably in response to the inflated bid (a previous bid had been submitted for \$13.48 a cord, so the Army had already been relatively successful in keeping costs more or less reasonable). It is not known whether this was the final bid accepted or whether the contract was thrown out entirely for that year and wood bought on the open market, as was threatened by the Quartermaster General's office (Quartermaster General 1902c).

Prices evidently decreased somewhat, for the contracts for fiscal year 1906 indicate the W. Paulson of Eagle was to provide 199 cords of wood at \$8.99 a cord; Bryant and Powers, also of Eagle, were to furnish 1,402 cords at \$9.92 apiece, and a third, unnamed contractor was supplying 199 cords of wood at the lowest per cord price of \$8.98 (Contracts 1905).

By 1908, providing wood for Fort Egbert had obviously become a big business for the townsfolk of Eagle, and the Army had greatly increased its use of fuel due, of course, to the greater number of buildings. Bids submitted by Eagleites for fiscal year 1909, and accepted, were those of: Robert Taylor Hanna for 199 cords at \$9.95, G. W. W. Uiscroft (also a saloon keeper) for 550 cords at \$12.65, Dan A. Nicholson for 500 cords at \$12.50, Charles H. Gay for 600 cords at \$12.79, and John B. Powers for 2,590 cords at \$12.88 (Contracts 1909). Even this total of nearly 4,500 cords was not sufficient for the projected need of the fort, and contractors were asked to supply 120% of their bids (Ibid.).

Food

Unlike durable goods, fuel, and food for animals, human food and other relatively quickly consumed items were ordered through the Commissary General's office in Washington, D. C., via the departmental Chief Commissary in Vancouver. Commissary records are not as well preserved, nor as extensive, as those from the Quartermaster's Office, but enough information is available to gain a fair understanding of the military diet at Fort Egbert. Owing to the great transportation problems and the remoteness of the fort, all ordering appears to have been handled on an annual basis. Because of the length and nature of the isolation, however, the range of nonperishable foods supplied was far more extensive than one would expect in the military. Nowhere, incidentally, is there any mention of different rations for enlisted men and officers, although the possibility is not to be excluded.

The list of subsistence stores for the period June 30-December 31, 1900, shows that soldiers at Fort Egbert had a choice of seven kinds of preserves (and seemed to prefer cherry and strawberry); five kinds of tea (including English Breakfast, black Oolong, and Japanese Green); four kinds of coffee; oysters; mushrooms; shrimp; soups including chicken, beef, clam chowder, mock turtle, ox tail, consomme, julienne, and tomato; as well as seven kinds of cigars.

A list, dated 1903, shows orders including caviar, cream cheese, roquefort cheese, dried coconut and cherries, curry powder and celery salt, rye flour, peanuts, pecans, popcorn, and plum pudding (Hige 1903). Canned and dried foods were procured via competitive bidding through one, or most likely several, purchasing commissaries. In addition to the food item and its quality, the Army specified in detail the packaging. All cans were to be heavily soldered and lacquered for water-tightness and wooden cases were to be free of knots. Salmon and baked beans came in one-pound cans, 48 to a box of the former and 24 to a case of the latter. Tomatoes, apricots, cabbage, white cherries, pears, peaches, sweet potatoes, and spinach came in 2-1/2-pound cans, 24 to a box, and baked beans alternatively came in 3-pound cans, 24 to a case. Olives and tomato catsup were packed in pint bottles, 24 to a case, well protected all around with sawdust while cane syrup was shipped in one-half-gallon cans with screw tops, in boxes of 12. Dried prunes, peaches, and apples came in 5-pound tins in boxes of 12 tins with iron straps, and macaroni was wrapped in

1-pound papers within 25-pound tins which were individually boxed, while "hard bread" came in hermetically sealed 25-pound tins in boxes of two. Cucumber pickles were packed in new oak 10-gallon, green-painted kegs, with galvanized iron hoops and tin-capped bungs while sauerkraut came in 10-gallon iron-bound spruce kegs, with a plug for rebrining at one end. Yeast, either dried or compressed, came in 5-ounce tins, in boxes of 24, these in cases of four boxes. Flour and white beans were shipped in 100-pound sacks, "four ears to a gunny," table salt was contained in 50-pound cotton sacks, and rock salt in 50-pound jute sacks, both wrapped in paraffin and brown paper and then boxed, and laundry starch was packed in one-pound papers in 40-pound hermetically sealed tins, then boxed (Contracts 1904).

This lavishness was not uncontested on higher administrative levels, as evidenced by the following protest:

"Let us fix this thing once and for all. The Alaska business appears to be run by somebody who gets hold of the 'American Grocer,' and immediately calls for things that he never saw outside of its pages, then we are to send them in. I want to be very liberal with troops who for two years have no access to any market other than what we provide for them. It does not follow from this that I wish to send cream cheese, dried beef, blackberry jam, evaporated parsnips, evaporated potatoes, sauerkraut in kegs, catsup, lime juice, pepper sauce, some of which you will find under the heading 'condemned' on the return from Fort Gibbon for September, 1902. When we send articles other than those which are authorized, or rather, when I ask the Secretary of War for authority to send them, I must have some pretty substantial reason to base it on, and that will not be in putting stores into Alaska or elsewhere to be lost" (Commissary General 1903).

Apparently a strong justification was offered, and the Army, as a measure of concern for its men in Alaska, continued to feed them very, very well.

Quantities ordered appear to have been very generous. In addition, all reports on the Middleby oven at the post bakery say that the quality of the bread produced was very good, and the command in Vancouver and in Washington was dearly aware of the effect that food in quantity and variety can have on morale. Doubtless, however, there were still complaints by the men. These would have centered on

the relative scarcity of fresh foods, the major ones being beef, potatoes, and onions. Fresh apples and oranges and an occasional egg were apparently supplied to the Post Exchange on an intermittent basis, but never through the subsistence stores. The problem of shipping and keeping even the minimal fresh items regularly supplied seems to have perpetually frustrated the Army in Alaska. Colonel Edward W. Dravo, Chief Commissary of the Department of the Columbia, made an inspection tour of Alaskan forts in the summer of 1909, and discussed the problem at some length in his report (Dravo 1909).

"The problem of summer supply of fresh vegetables, potatoes and onions, for the Army is one of great difficulty in the States, as the vegetables, after having been kept through the winter, soften, sprout and deteriorate very rapidly. This problem is intensified when it is a question of supplying the posts in Alaska, as the poor condition of the vegetables when brought in June for shipment to those posts is further intensified by the long shipment North. By the time they arrive at their destination it is only a question of sorting out those that can be used, and the absolute loss runs from 10% to sometimes as high as 50% of the shipment.

"It is believed that this problem can only be solved by the local production of the vegetables in Alaska, and that this solution will soon be an accomplished fact.

"At Fort Egbert I found that a citizen had been experimenting in raising potatoes for several years and this year had planted between two and three acres, which at the time of my inspection, August 4, were nearing maturity. I was shown potatoes raised the preceding year which, though stored through the winter, were almost as firm and sound as potatoes just harvested in the States and they showed no sign of sprouting. They were of good size and color, smooth surface with almost no indentation at the eyes, and cooked splendidly. They rated first class. I authorized the Commissary to purchase 17,000 pounds at five cents per pound, all that the grower could spare and hold them for use after this winters supply from the States had become exhausted."

However, subsequent reports from Egbert indicate that Colonel Dravo's discovery did not result in a continuous supply of local potatoes.

The following spring he [Dravo 1910] wrote to the Commissary General that "in spite of the favorable report made to me by the officers at Forts Egbert and Gibbon on my inspection last summer, the matter of procuring suitable potatoes raised locally in Alaska has not resulted satisfactorily. I have had a close watch kept on them at the post and had them tested thoroughly and am forced to conclude that they are too watery to be either very palatable or very good keepers. I have received numerous reports on them varying from 'undesirable' to 'very good'...."

"The natural deduction from all this is that it would be best for us to ship in potatoes from the States...and now that you have added San Francisco as a point of supply therefore, I do not believe that there will be any difficulty in supplying them with potatoes that will keep during the year. The freight rate from San Francisco...is [sic] exactly the same as from Seattle, and as potatoes and onions can be purchased more reasonably at that point, and as they mature much earlier in California than in this Northwest country, I see no reason why we should not be able to ship potatoes and onions before the close of navigation which will be thoroughly sound, thoroughly matured..." (Dravo 1910).

Beef was shipped to Alaska on the hoof, grazed until freeze-up, then slaughtered. Dravo (1909) mentions taking the train from Skagway along with "eight cars of beef cattle, bound for Fairbanks" although it is likely that this was a civilian enterprise. In his report, Dravo (1909) mentioned the lack of grazing land between the Canadian border and Nome, and there is no reference in any of the archival material to pasturage at Fort Egbert. Nevertheless, it was estimated that the men of Fort Liscum, a post of comparable size, consumed 14 quarters of beef and four sheep every two weeks (Gallaher 1909). At St. Michael, beef cattle were delivered on the hoof in June and slaughtered in November (Ibid.). At any rate, though the advisability of constructing refrigeration plants was discussed as a cost-saving measure (see Dravo 1909), there was no adequate cold storage at Fort Egbert, save the Guardhouse cellar, and the beef was presumably delivered by private contractors at a very stiff price indeed. Table 1 illustrates comparative prices for fresh beef at the various Alaska forts for years where figures were available.

Fort Egbert also served as the supply point for a number of telegraph stations, and the subsistence supplies

TABLE 1. COMPARATIVE BEEF PRICES, CENTS PER POUND,
FISCAL YEARS 1908-1911*

	FY 1908	1909	1910	1911
Fort Davis	--	36.5	28.5	32.5
Fort St. Michael	--	37.5	29.5	34.5
Fort Egbert	--	24.0	28.75	34.5
Fort Gibbon	--	23.5	28.75	34.5
Fort Seward (a)	14.0	10.24	14.0	9.74 (c)
Fort Liscum (a,b)	8.97	11.25	15.90	9.74 (c)

* Data from Dravo 1909, 1910, and Gallaher 1909.

(a) open water ports

(b) had refrigeration unit as of summer, 1909

(c) large refrigeration units installed summer, 1910

for these were, of necessity, far less lavish. Nevertheless, the commissary officers concerned themselves with supplementing the standard rations, both in quantity and quality. The extract below was written at Fort Gibbon, but the situation and concern applied to the Signal Corpsmen out of Fort Egbert as well.

"To any one living in a well populated district, or in a temperate climate, this statement may appear trivial, but the withdrawal of the butter and milk portion of the ration from the enlisted men...is not by any means a trivial matter to the men affected; butter and milk may properly be considered luxuries in the United States and other temperate climates, but it is no exaggeration to say that they, the former especially, are absolute necessities for the proper nourishment of men who are daily called upon to risk life and health...matching their strength against the fierce energy of the elements in an Arctic zone.

"Again it should be remembered that, in selecting men...they must be chosen with respect for their ability as telegraphers and linemen--hence it often happens that there are several stations without good or even fair cooks, or men who can handle the ration efficiently and economically. It is very easy to understand that a small number of rations handled in this manner, will not give the men as good a return as the same amount of raw material handled

under more favorable circumstances. Moreover, a great portion of the vegetable component is necessarily made up of desiccated potatoes and onions--the fruit component being all dried, while these desiccated substances may theoretically contain all the nutritive qualities of the fresh articles they represent, nevertheless a continuous diet of this kind becomes in time as nauseous as it is always tasteless. The soldier stationed at even remote places in the United States may occasionally purchase fresh fruits, but this is impossible for the men in out-of-the-way offices in Alaska, and they frequently serve their entire time here--two years--without ever tasting fresh fruit.

"Another very serious drawback to the health and happiness of the men is the fact that they are compelled to live exclusively on baking powder biscuits as not one in fifty ever masters the art of baking yeast bread; during their tour of duty in Alaska fresh beef is practically unknown to them.

"It is true that men often have opportunity to hunt and fish, and in this manner add materially to the variety of the meat component furnished by the subsistence department, but this addition, attained by men's own exertions, is more than counter balanced by the amount of rations continually furnished impoverished miners, and belated travellers and wayfarers; indeed it is not far from the truth to say that every isolated telegraph office in Alaska is, in addition, a life saving station, and a harbor of refuge for storm bound travelers, where the men, without hope of reward or remuneration, gladly share their food with those whose only claim to consideration is their misfortune" (Hemphill 1905).

Thus, the military adhered to a policy of attempting, as best they could, to provide a diet for the men as close as possible to and even surpassing a normal civilian diet in the States, at considerable additional expense. Though the rations to the men stationed out of the forts was considerably less luxurious than those of the garrison soldiers, examination of the rations lists indicate that it was far more varied with imported foodstuffs than that of the average miner in the bush.

Transportation

Transportation of various goods to the post was a major concern on all administrative levels. The usual problems of supply and planning were compounded by the extremely seasonal nature of shipping in Alaska, especially in the Interior. The two major supply routes to Fort Egbert were via St. Michael and up the length of the Yukon River or via the White Pass and Yukon Railroad and down the Yukon. Each route had obvious advantages and disadvantages for transporting different kinds of goods.

The St. Michael route was, clearly, feasible only in summertime. Not only was September 10 the final safe date for steamship sailings to Alaska from Puget Sound (about two weeks earlier in the case of supplies destined for up the Yukon), but there was no storage facility for stranded goods at St. Michael and the Army wished to avoid storage fees in the lower 48 states as well. This latter concern made planning for shipments early in the season necessary so that shipping dates from the various depots around the country could have goods arrive in time for the first Alaska sailings, but not too far in advance so that storage fees were held to a minimum. This was, at any rate, an Army ideal.

There were three basic sailing times out of Puget Sound for Alaskan ports: Early, Mid-Season, and End-of-Season. Early shipments were possible either by sailing ship or by steamship. Sailing ships left Seattle in late April or early May and proceeded to the area beyond Dutch Harbor, where they dropped anchor and waited for the ice to clear out of the Bering Sea. At that time they would continue to the ports of St. Michael and Nome. Their arrival was reckoned at a week to ten days later than the steamboats, and total supplying time would have been longer by three weeks or more (Ruhlen 1901). Freight charges for sailing ships, although not specified in any of the NARS records searched, were considerably cheaper than the steamboat prices, which ran about \$40 a ton for the early sailing season in 1900 (Ibid.). At that time, owing to the greater duration of the travel period, sailing ships were recommended by the Quartermaster's Office for bulky, but non-perishable supplies, such as coal, lumber, forage, and building materials (Ibid.). However, this means of shipment was only to be used at the beginning of the season; it is not known when sail-powered vessels were phased out.

Steamships were, however, the predominant means of shipping. The early round of departures took place around the end of June; the second sailings centered around mid-July and very late sailings could be begun the first week in October. These were, however, very risky indeed, and delivery was not all that certain. In the fall of 1900, the government transport Krarven left Seattle on September 19, bound for St. Michael and Nome with 2,300 tons of coal. She arrived at Nome on October 6, but returned to Seattle with more than half her cargo still aboard, prevented from unloading it by stormy weather and rough seas (Ibid.). Shortly after that during the first week in October, the steamers Ohio, Senator, Portland, and Cleveland, carrying coal under Government contract, also sailed for the same places. The first three ships delivered their loads with some difficulty but the Cleveland was wrecked in the attempt (Ibid.).

Mid-season sailings were the cheapest available, the usual charge (in 1900) being about \$12.50 a ton. Rates went back up to \$40.00 per ton with the late season sailings, so that outside of more or less urgent shipments, cargo bound for Alaska out of Seattle tended to be concentrated in mid-season.

Once the goods had been unloaded at St. Michael, they were transferred again to government-owned riverboats which went up and down the Yukon to Forts Gibbon, Egbert, and intermediate camps. Because of the shallowness of the Bering Sea and the small number of government riverboats, the cargos had to be lightened; many of the larger shipping concerns apparently brought their river craft out to the ocean vessels, which off-loaded their contents directly.

The St. Michael-Yukon route was favored because of its comparative cheapness, but its relatively short season (the river was open at Fort Egbert between roughly mid-June and mid-October, see Graham 1909:12) and length of time required for shipment limited its usefulness. Fortunately, the White Pass and Yukon route, though hardly efficient, offered a reasonable alternative for moving both men and perishable goods. Another advantage was that Skagway waters were open all year, so that certain emergency goods could be shipped, if necessary, even during mid-winter. Connections between the ports on Puget Sound and Skagway were excellent, with steamships leaving every three to five days year-round (Ruhlen 1901). The journey to Skagway took about five days, but even in summer required three subsequent

transfers. The account of the maiden run of government freight for Fort Egbert, in October 1900, is perhaps illustrative. Eugene B. Leddy, an agent of the Quartermaster's office in Seattle, was chosen to accompany 600 crates weighing 68,900 pounds to Fort Egbert and by doing so arranged for regular shipment along the White Pass and Yukon Route.

For a surcharge of 1.5¢ over the normal Skagway to Whitehorse tariff of \$4.00 per hundred pounds, the White Pass and Yukon Railroad unloaded the crates from the ship and onto their cars, and the train left Skagway the evening of October 1, arriving in Whitehorse the next morning. The load was then transferred to a river steamer, whose owners charged Leddy an express rate of \$100 a ton to Dawson, in spite of his vehement protests and telegrams to various officials. The explanation for their refusal to grant the U. S. Government a discount was very simple: if other large shippers heard of the reduced rate, they would all demand it (Leddy 1900)!

The trip from Whitehorse to Dawson lasted four days, and there Leddy arranged for the cargo to be transferred, this time to scows for the final run to Eagle. The best price he could obtain was \$1.565 per hundred pounds.

"...I knew I was being over-charged, but knew it was necessary and was anxious to rush this shipment through, and and at that time there were only two scows in Dawson available, which they had. I could perhaps by waiting a few days, have obtained lower figures from irresponsible people ...[oversight of the delivery was then entrusted to C. K. French, Deputy U. S. Attorney, bound for his headquarters at Eagle] I also considered the fact that had I gone personally, I would have been detained at Dawson on my return for at least two or two and one half months, under considerable expense to the government especially for my subsistence, which is very high in Alaska, as well as my transportation out over the ice" (Ibid.).

The cost for transportation from Skagway to Fort Egbert for this one shipment works out roughly to an astounding \$6,800. While Leddy reported that his discussions with various shippers in Dawson indicated that the Army could expect to pay cheaper rates in the future, and while Colonel Dravo's (1909) report on fresh beef from the Commissary department indicated a cost of roughly 14¢ a pound shipping from Skagway to Egbert ten years later, this

is not a substantial change from the 1900 cost, which works out to about 10.5¢ a pound. However, the cost of fresh vegetables sent to Fort Egbert in 1902 was \$52 a ton via St. Michael, as opposed to \$151 a ton via the White Pass Railroad, which indicates that the freight costs were almost one-quarter over the trail run (Anonymous n.d.g). Thus, while the White Pass and Yukon offered a means of providing the fort at Eagle with perishable supplies at a far lower rate of spoilage, and the shorter distance by river allowed sleds to be used for emergency deliveries, transportation of goods to Eagle was (and still is) cumbersome indeed.

This was also true in terms of postal deliveries as well, which simultaneously served the town of Eagle and the soldiers at Fort Egbert. Graham reported that while mail service was fairly frequent in summer, as all the riverboats carried mail, in winter all but the smaller first class items, and single copies of periodicals mailed to individuals, were held at Skagway or Whitehorse until the river opened. Mail service to Dawson was once a week, and twice a month for downriver points. Winter mail service was provided by dog teams, supplemented by horse-drawn sleds (Graham 1909:12). Presumably a small detachment would be sent from Fort Egbert to Whitehorse to haul emergency shipments back by the same means.

Rotation of personnel occurred every two years, in summertime, when new companies were sent from the Departmental Headquarters to Fort William H. Seward, near Haines, and from there to Fort Egbert. While no account of an actual company rotation was found, it can be assumed that the men took the train to Whitehorse, and from there went downriver by boat. There are records, however, of cases of individuals and detachments traveling to Fort Seward or the lower 48 states, and they did use the White Pass Route. The men often encountered difficulties for Army practice was to issue them either travel rations or a "commutation of rations" and "coffee money," both of the latter at rates apparently set by the Department. The main trouble with the travel rations was that no provisions were then made for lodgings, and soldiers were forced to eat their food either on the streets, at the North-West Mounted Police quarters, or in the homes of charitable strangers (Smith 1904). And while a system of lay-over stations existed in the towns soldiers passed through, these provided no place to sleep. In addition, other complications ensued in crossing the international boundary. A case was reported

where a detachment of Signal Corps traveling from Skagway to Forts Egbert and Gibbon had duty levied on their rations by the Canadian Customs inspectors, who only relented on the insistence of the Superintendent of the White Pass and Yukon, who apparently served some of the functions of consul in Whitehorse. The incident concluded with the understanding that duty was to be paid on all travel rations in the future (Thoodbury 1905).

The "commutation of rations" allotment seems to have allowed 50¢ a meal, and the "coffee money" allowed 7¢ a pint for that beverage. This, however, was nowhere near sufficient, for meals along the entire route in Canada cost \$1 a piece, and coffee cost 25¢ a cup in Dawson (Smith 1904).

The Army's solution was finally to institute a meal ticket system at certain designated cafes, which were: R. D. Becker, meals and lodgings, Golden North Hotel, meals and lodging in Skagway; Anthony R. Groves, meals in Bennett; the Windsor Hotel, meals and lodging, the Vancouver Hotel, meals and lodging, and the Regina Hotel, meals and lodging, in Whitehorse; and the Cecil Hotel, meals and lodging, the Regina Hotel, meals and lodging, and the Rochester Hotel, meals and lodging in Dawson (Ibid.). However, the system of meal tickets does not seem to have become universal, and a three-way, rather confused system of meal tickets, travel rations, and "commutation of rations" seems to have persisted (Thoodbury 1905).

Civilian Employment

Fort Egbert was an autonomous unit, functioning quite independently of the local population. However, it did call upon surrounding civilians, not only as contractors for the provision of fuel, but also as employees. Although there was very little information on civilian employment in the military records, such personnel seem to have fallen into three categories: (1) those employed in connection with transportation, (2) skilled workers on post, and (3) hospital matrons.

It is unclear whether the first group was employed on a steady or a casual basis. Special field returns filed on the Fort Liscum-Fort Egbert Military Telegraph Line Construction Party give no indication, either way, of civilian aid until the return for March 1902 which indicates under

the heading "Civilian Employees and Means of Transportation" that there were 23 civilians hired by the infantry and 15 hired by the Signal Corps working on the line (Special Field Returns 1901-1904). There is no other mention of them, and the telegraph line itself was completed on August 23 of that year.

In the Special Field Returns for Fort Egbert, we find that in February of 1904, the post employed a total of 31 civilians in unspecified capacities. In the returns for July and August of the same year, 14 civilians were working "in connection with transportation" (Ibid.). While it is pointless to speculate on the basis of so little information, 14 people is a fairly significant number, equaling about 10% of the military personnel then stationed there, though a minuscule percentage of the city of Eagle's population of almost 500. Presumably, these men were employed as packers, to convey goods to construction crews along the telegraph line, and later to haul goods to the stations and when large repairs were needed. It is not known whether they provided their own teams, but that is assumed, as the number of dogs on post never really exceeded 30, and these would have been used by the soldiers.

Though not corroborated by the Field Returns (which for Fort Egbert are not as detailed as for many other installations), it appears that a number of jobs of a more or less skilled variety were routinely filled by civilian workers. It is hard to tell if some of them were hired at Eagle or if they were hired by the Army and chose to live in town. Buildings #24 and #25 were quarters for civilian employees, and the NARS papers contained several letters soliciting employment in Alaska, though it is not known whether this was a successful method. During the fall of 1900, Fort Egbert had the following classified employees in the Quartermaster's Department at large: a mechanical engineer at \$100 a month, 10 carpenters at \$8 a day and two at \$3.50 a day, and a wheelwright and a blacksmith, both at \$100 a month (Ludington 1900a). The carpenters included J. B. Powers, who was something of an entrepreneur. He would later handle a number of wood contracts for the fort, and his cabin was one of those on land condemned for the reservation as were the cabins of the engineer and another of the carpenters. All these appointments were temporary ones, but seem to have been extended several times. If it can be assumed that being a blacksmith or a wheelwright was not a skill that was demanded of infantry soldiers, then by the large orders of tools and repair

materials, which appeared on the Quartermaster's Requisition forms, it would seem that such tradesmen had to be hired, at least periodically, by the Army at Fort Egbert. In addition, mention is made in a 1902 letter of those civilian employees eligible to draw rations at the post as being those drawing over \$60 a month in wages, and including engineers, carpenters, wheelwrights, blacksmiths, and packers (Perkins 1902). Periodic references to the activities of post carpenters, as in a 1906 proposed conversion of the Old Hospital to a Laundry (Building #20) (Scher 1905d) and the erection of the Lumber and Blacksmith's Coal Shed (Building #41), indicate the continuity of post carpenters, rather than, say, men working a carpentry detail. Finally, the petition from the Eagle citizens to the Secretary of War, protesting the scheduled closing of the fort and requesting restoration of a full garrison, indicates that Fort Egbert provided employment for area residents as late as 1910 (Petition 1910).

The civilian job for which a good measure of continuity can be established is that of hospital matron. This seems to have been the sort of position that a respectable lady from town could fill. The first matron was appointed in August 1901. She was Mrs. Nellie F. Myers, wife of Ulysses G. Myers, the Townsite Trustee for Eagle (who was responsible for the issuance of deeds, collection of taxes and maintenance of property records, and whose notes, accompanying the tax bills sent to those former Eagleites searching for opportunity elsewhere, often provide a sense of the town otherwise unobtainable in the NARS files). She held this position until October 31, 1902, when she was "relieved by the Surgeon as Hospital Matron" (Hospital Papers 1886-1912). She was replaced, starting the next day, by Mrs. Edith Simon, who appears to be, according to a 1908 list of Eagle residents, the wife of Henry C. Simon and mother of four (List of Residents 1908).

Mrs. Simon resigned at the end of June 1903 and the job was then filled by a Miss Lois Adams, who was discharged on November 30, 1903. There seems to have been no one to act as matron until the end of May 1904 when Mrs. Myers was rehired, but she lasted only a month. After a hiatus of yet another month, Mrs. Sophia Williscroft took over the position. There is no indication as to how long she held it; she was still in Eagle as of August 1908, but had left by the following year with her husband, George W., for Aberdeen, Washington. There he was the proprietor of the Pioneer Hotel and Cafe, a "Family Liquor House and Pool

Room" featuring "Fine Wines, Liquors and Cigars" (Willis-croft 1909). It is most likely that he ran a similar establishment in Eagle. Mrs. Sarah E. Robinson, identifiable only as wife of John H. Robinson, became matron in July of 1909 and held that post until February 28, 1911. From the end of March until July 17, 1911, Mrs. Simon was once again working at the fort, and was the last of the women of Eagle to do so.

Tenor of Life

What was it like to live at Fort Egbert? What did the men stationed there do? This is one of the more puzzling questions concerning the post, and the least likely to yield satisfactory answers. Unfortunately, in spite of vast amounts of paper work generated by any bureaucracy, a systematic exposition of how time is spent is not likely to appear. Some of this is because much is assumed, and some is because much is private. As a result, several approaches are necessary. In order to find out what was done on duty, we must start with what might be termed military universals and spell these out as best we can (these roles are the least likely to be mentioned, and also those where a solid knowledge of military practice and history would be most helpful). Only when this is done can we look to the special cases, the things that get mentioned in accounts and on post records. Similarly, one must try to imagine leisure time activities and assume that anything mentioned is a special case, and that some kinds of events are locked in a cause-and-effect relationship.

Fort Egbert had a full staff of between 100 and 150 enlisted men, and between three and 10 officers throughout the years of its existence. The majority of these men were assigned to infantry units, with a few Signal Corps personnel attached to the post. Rotations took place every two years, though if a man's enlistment expired before the term was up, he was free to leave; if he chose to re-enlist, he was able to do so without return to headquarters. Thus, it can be assumed that, outside of an initial break-in period, the troops were highly familiar with both the individual post routine, and with its environs. A fair amount of the working hours of a number of the men, presumably most of the officers and a few enlisted men serving as clerks, was devoted to paper work. This must be so since while the written records of Fort Egbert that still exist are not overwhelming, they are quite ample in bulk and would have been more so if all had been preserved. Countless

forms had to be filled out, logs to be entered, and questionnaires to be responded to. In addition, these things had to be filed and retrieved when called for. Both the Quartermaster, who tended to be a junior officer, and the Chief Commissary, who tended to be a noncommissioned officer, were responsible for keeping careful inventories of supplies on hand, and checking the compiled lists against actual stock. While some communication beyond the fort was handled by letter, most was done by telegraph. The telegraph line also served the civilian community as well, apparently charging an undetermined commercial rate. The most famous telegram sent from Fort Egbert appears thus commemorated in the Federal Register of July 11, 1910: "To reimburse the Western Union Telegraph Company, from receipts of the Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph system, for services in transmitting a guaranteed message from Fort Egbert, Alaska to Christiania, Norway, seven hundred and fifty-five dollars and twenty-eight cents."

Letters had to be drafted, typed, taken to the Signal Office, submitted and sent, and the papers filed pending receipt. Other clerks dispensed supplies and recorded the transactions. Water was hauled in and refuse was hauled away. Quarters of men and animals were cleaned, as were those public buildings that housed no one. Animals were fed and watered and some, dogs for instance, had to be cooked for. Wood had to be sawed and brought in to the various stoves, including the heater houses along the water line, and all these had to be monitored. While there is no reason to believe that the men at Fort Egbert were harried in the execution of myriad maintenance chores, in fact, these would have been extensive enough to occupy a good portion of every day. One gets the impression, too, that much of this kind of activity was combined with what is listed on the post returns (the monthly records of post activity filed by every military installation) as usual garrison duty, which is the basic patrol and sentry function performed at any military installation. Thus, while there would always need to be a man on duty at the Guardhouse, to guard any prisoner and be ready to receive any potential one, it was also his duty to monitor the temperature of the meat storage area in the cellar, and to see that the building was properly heated as required.

On a post-wide basis, there would have been a twice daily muster and flag raising, presumably on the Parade Ground, and inspections would have been held for soldiers in the barracks.

In addition to these very basic functions, there were a series of tasks that were basically seasonal. The season in which these things most often took place was summertime, with the exception of such tasks as delivering supplies and emergency aid to the various signal corps men stationed in the line camps. The other duties included activities related to construction and annual maintenance of the post, and equipment and preparation activities. In the first category fall such things as manning the sawmill, digging trenches and foundations, assisting civilian carpenters (and in some instances doing all construction and carpentry), building and repairing roads, and the like. The latter category would cover, as its major activity, the unloading of cargo shipments from riverboat to the appropriate storehouse (much the way the same activity can employ a number of men in contemporary Yukon River villages). On a periodic basis, various military exercises, such as target practice and drills of the fire brigade, would be held, with their goal being the periodic refreshment of the skills and instincts of fighting men.

A final set of activities that engaged the soldiers of Fort Egbert was of an emergency nature. Thus, on the night of September 11, 1904, "the command turned out and extinguished a fire, that had broke out in the post bakery building..." (Special Field Returns 1901-1904). Similarly, a large portion of the post helped fight the forest fires that destroyed a portion of the telegraph line toward Goodpaster during the summer of 1905, and aided the Signal Corps in subsequent reconstruction efforts (Graham 1909:14). Detachments were also sent to aid in conservation efforts. In October of 1904, President Roosevelt issued a proclamation for the prevention of the killing of caribou for commercial purposes, and personnel from Fort Egbert patrolled a fair-sized area to this end for some years thereafter (Special Field Returns 1901-1904).

The fort seems to have come into little contact with the native population. The exception to this, short of a mechanism for sales of stores to natives to be discussed shortly, was a program of distribution of rations furnished to "destitute natives." Initially, this appears to have been a kind of selective charity, available to the old or sick. Thus, in the fall of 1907, the following people received rations (which equalled food for one day):

Maggie, October 1-8, 8 rations
October 9-23, 15 rations

Ellen, October 6-20, 15 rations
Simon, October 1-20, 20 rations
Susan, October 1-20, 20 rations (Sharpe 1907).

Six months later it was reported (Sharpe 1908) that 15 rations each had been issued to Emma Johnson and Maggie; 20 had gone to Isabella, Peter and Blind Retie; Simon and Susan had been given 25 each, and Old Charlie had gotten 10.

This manner of aid was expanded when smallpox broke out in the native village of Eagle in February of 1909. Instructions from the Interior Department and the Secretary of War directed the post surgeon to take all measures necessary to check the disease and prevent its spread (Wright 1909). The disease was over by the beginning of March (Myers 1909), following a quarantine and the destruction of certain villagers' stores to prevent further contagion. Precisely what was destroyed was unspecified, but the Interior Department transferred \$109.27 to the Army to cover replacement costs (Piersey 1909).

Basically, Fort Egbert's personnel must have devoted a lot of time to running the post. However, its major purpose was to supply manpower and expertise to the region as needed, and while this seems to have been less a matter of riot control and law enforcement than first envisioned, the basic task of maintaining the stability of the country and protecting government property remained basically the same.

Information as to what the men did off duty is scarce. Most of the soldiers were young and alone, and while officers and an occasional noncommissioned officer could, and did, bring their families with them, this was a very expensive undertaking. Mail service was difficult in winter and the supply of reading matter coming in was restricted and intermittent. No post library existed in the early years, but there was one by 1908 (at which time it was liberally equipped with spittoons--Office of the Quartermaster General 1908). No doubt there were men who liked to do a little hunting or fishing, or set a few traps, or even pan for colors in Mission Creek. Cards and pool were doubtless popular pastimes. However, Eagle was a proper mining town and offered the robust temptations attractive to both prospectors and soldiers. Thus, early in the history of the post, C. S. Farnsworth, the Commanding Officer, wrote to Washington, D. C., requesting permission to construct a Post Exchange. He wrote:

"...The building will be erected by soldiers of the garrison who will be paid by the exchange for their labor. The absence of proper places of amusement and the bad character of the saloon near the reservation render it a very important matter..." (Farnsworth 1900).

Records indicate that the Post Exchange had a balance on hand of \$599.83 as of December 31, 1900 (Record Group 94 n.d.), but a license was not issued until April 1, 1901, and its first official quarterly report was for the period ending June 30 of that year (Record Group 94 n.d.).

The Post Exchange seems to have always been a highly successful institution, patronized not only by the servicement, but, when they could get permission or get away with it, civilian residents of Eagle as well. The matter of who could make purchases at the fort will be discussed below, but this was clearly a touchy subject. A comparatively great number of goods was available on post, and at considerably reduced prices over stores in Eagle. One gets the impression that the men of Fort Egbert were caught in the bind of Frontier hospitality and reciprocity and abuses in sales to civilians, from all post outlets (commissary, bakery, post exchange), were known to the staff of the Department of the Columbia. Consequently, otherwise reasonable requests for Post Exchange supplies were disallowed because of a tendency for such things to fall into civilian hands. For example, Major E. H. Plummer, then commanding officer, wrote in 1905, requesting that the Subsistence Department of the Department of the Columbia send some eggs, apples, lemons, and oranges on a periodic basis for use by the lunch counter of the Exchange. His argument was good:

"There are no chickens in this section of the country, the price of eggs is exceedingly high. Naturally, there is a steady demand for them at the Exchange lunch counter, also for the fruits mentioned, but if the Exchange pays freight on them, between Skagway and Eagle, the prices, to individual enlisted men, become almost prohibitory.

"In view of the isolated location of this post, the proximity of many saloons and other like resorts, the long periods of darkness in winter, the absence of newspaper and magazine mail between October and June, it is believed that every reasonable assistance should be given by the War Department, to add to the attractiveness of the Exchange, especially towards providing for a lunch counter, where,

without excessive cost, enlisted men may be able to gratify a natural appetite for fruit and for change of food, the latter requiring such articles as those mentioned, and elsewhere deemed necessary in the preparation of cakes, and other things, not ordinarily served in company messes, and for which there is a demand at an Exchange lunch counter" (Plummer 1905c).

This request was turned down, largely due to the Post Exchange's record of selling to civilians, but provisions were made so that the companies could order such things in small quantities from time to time.

A curious institution on the military scene around the turn of the century was the Officers' Lyceum, which was an outgrowth of the Chautauqua movement. These were officially-sponsored, administered on a Departmental level, and attendance was taken at all of the regularly held meetings. At each meeting a member, or occasionally a visiting lecturer, read a short research report, which was then discussed. A copy of the paper was forwarded to the Departmental headquarters. These Officers' Lyceums seem to have flourished in the lower 48 states, where a sizeable number of members would have contributed to rather lively gatherings, marked by a diversity of topics. Some Alaskan posts, notably Forts Liscum and Davis, did reasonably well owing, no doubt, to their coastal locations and the occasional passing through of a guest lecturer. Fort Egbert's Lyceum, however, was pathetic. It met during the months of February and March 1902; three times in February and eight times in March. Sessions were held on Tuesdays and Fridays between 3:45 and 4:45 in the afternoon, with all three members faithfully in attendance. They managed to have one guest lecture on March 25, delivered by the Post Surgeon, C. A. Treuholts, on "Our Friends and Enemies, the Bacteria." The next meeting, March 28, saw the multiple delivery of "The Capture of Forts Henry and Donaldson" by Captain W. S. McBroom (who was President of the Lyceum and Director of Instruction), "Battle of Shiloh" by First Lieutenant B. J. Tillman, and "The Moros" by Lyceum Secretary Second Lieutenant W. L. Fitzpatrick--whose anthropological interests were stimulated by America's recent acquisition of the Phillipines (Reports on Post and Officers' Lyceum 1891-1902). None of the papers was recommended for publication, and with that the Officer's Lyceum at Fort Egbert seems to have folded.

The opening of the gynmasium in the fall of 1908 (Graham 1909:21) was clearly a positive addition to the post. It was said to be well supplied with gymnastic equipment, had an indoor shooting gallery and a bowling alley (the latter evidently moved from the Granary, #17, as indicated by worn-out and replaced bowling balls referred to earlier). In addition, its large main floor could be used for social functions and the building's popularity was such that H. A. Hanigan (1909), in command of the fort, exulted, "I am reliably informed that the business of the saloons of Eagle has greatly decreased since the completion of the gymnasium, the latter part of October, and their owners ascribe this to the fact that the men prefer the gymnasium to their own places."

The first winter athletic meet was held January 19, 1909, attended by all the military and most of the civilian population of Eagle. The events were: signal race, running high jump, pole vault, rope climb, wall scaling, (shooting) gallery contest, basketball, and old soldiers' race (Ibid.). The competition was held again in February, followed by a dance, and Graham (1909:21) reports that dances continued on a semi-monthly basis throughout the winter.

Underlying all this official concern with recreation, like a leitmotif, is the attempt to keep the soldiers out of the bars. Information on numbers, and what their precise nature and influence was, is not available in NARS records. Deeds to Eagle townsite list the property owner's name solely (unless held by a company), and there is no indication as to whether a certain lot was used commercially, residentially, or both. Thus, if one does not know the names of the saloon keepers, one cannot pick out the saloons by this method. Drinking in the saloons could result in tragedy, but the Army for the most part, attempted to keep quiet all matters relating to drinking among its men. Thus, a search of Post Returns, where official punishments would have been noted, yield no mention of court-martials for drunkenness, or any less action taken in that regard. Presumably, post policy was to try to haul its boys home, dry them out, and keep it within the family. This façade, however, was broken in 1909 with the receipt of a disjointed and violently worded letter to the Secretary of War. In read in part:

"The town of Eagle lies adjoining the post (Fort Egbert) in the town there are four saloons, in the fall of

1908 a member of one of the companies blew his brains out in a fit of desperation because he could not get whiskey. In the winter of 1908-09 seven men of company J U. S. Infantry 22nd Regiment stole a can of oil (kerosene) and sold it in town in order to get whiskey, these men were arrested tried and dishonorably discharged and disenfranchisedruined cocially [sic] in order that the saloons might profit by their unholy traffic, it cost the government somewhere near 10 000 00 dollars to try these men. Lieutenant Graham of either company M or G of the 22nd infantry has been drunk a no of times one day last summer the government carriage used here by the officers stood in front of one of these saloons most of the day I have seen Lieutenant Graham standing at the bar drinking repeatedly.

"Now can you do anything to stop this? Is there no way to prevent these human hyenas sucking the life blood from these Boys many of whom are hardly out of their teens..." (LeFevre 1909).

There was no choice but to act. The letter was forwarded to the Adjutant General of the Department of the Columbia, who ordered an investigation conducted by the Commanding Officer of Fort Egbert. The results of the investigation were that, while LeFevre himself was dismissed as a crank and most townspeople praised the soldiers' conduct and compared it favorably with that of the civilian population, there was some truth to the charges. However, it was decided that no misuse of government vehicles had occurred and that the case reported had been in connection with official business. "The fact that it was in front of a saloon was incidental to the fact that any horse hitched anywhere in that block will be approximately in front of a saloon" (Davison 1910a).

Nevertheless, there had been a suicide and there had been something of a scandal over some kerosene (although this was acknowledged in the tersest of terms) and Lieutenant Graham had been observed in an intoxicated state three times in the past year and a half. Graham was called before the Commanding Office and confronted with those charges augmented by additional reports of his regularly going to the saloons. He admitted that he drank regularly, but not enough to prevent the successful carrying out of his duties; but his explanations were not acceptable. He was ordered confined to the post for 2 months and relieved from his Adjutant's duties (Davison 1910b).

The most nagging difficulty faced by the fort, and one which was taken to reflect more on it and affected it to a far greater extent than individual cases of misconduct, was the matter of commissary sales to civilians. While there can be no question but that the Army disliked the practice, for it cost it considerable money, civilians working for the military on a steady basis were allowed to draw rations rather early in the life of the fort (Perkins 1902). This was prompted by food prices in the city of Eagle such as 65¢ a pound for beef, \$8 for 100 pounds of flour, 30¢ a pound for bacon, eggs at \$1 a dozen, and potatoes and onions going for minimum prices of 15¢ and 25¢ a pound, respectively (Ibid.). Clearly, these prices were no match for civil service wages ranging from about \$85 to \$190 a month (Ludington 1900b).

A policy was made official for all customs service employees at Fort Egbert in September 1902 in response to continued pressure from individuals on their agencies in Washington (Shaw 1902). Such officials could buy articles from Quartermaster's and subsistence supplies (including the Post Exchange and Bakery) at military cost, plus a fifty percent markup to cover transportation, subject to sufficiency on hand for the post itself. This policy was extended, one by one, to all of the non-military government employees over the years at Eagle, including the postmaster and U. S. Commissioner (Inspector General 1909a). It was considered a valuable prerequisite for civil servants and other personnel but was clearly a much sought after discount and thus often abused. (Out of this came the rationale for denying the Post Exchange shipment of fresh fruit and eggs in 1905 as described earlier.) Further potential for such practices came in 1903, when the War Department authorized sales of commissary goods in Alaska if the posts had enough to spare, with only a 33-1/3 percent surcharge to natives who were out of food, but had the cash. The order carried the cautionary note that "great care must be exercised that these stores be not sold to white people using natives as a medium to make purchases" (Evans 1903).

In the summer of 1909, the Inspector General's office of the Department of the Columbia took steps to curtail the extension of Commissary privileges to civilian and government officials. It was argued that it was outmoded, since local prices had moderated and a greater range of goods was available in the stores. Table 2 includes approximate prices in Eagle and at Fort Egbert that were included in the Inspector General's report.

TABLE 2. APPROXIMATE PRICES FOR FOOD ITEMS
IN EAGLE AND AT FORT EGBERT

Articles	Stores 1900	Stores 1909	Commissary 1909*
Canned fruits, per can	\$.75	\$.39-.43	\$.22-.30
Canned vegetables, per can	.50	.18-.34	.22-.48
Potatoes, per pound	.40	.05-.10	.036
Onions, per pound	.40-.60	.09	.033
Canned meats, per tin	.75	.25-.45	.31-.50
Fresh meats, per pound game only		.30-.55	.43-.52
Flour, per pound	.16	.065	.03262
Canned milk, per can	.50	.17-.22	.1045-.195
Sugar, per pound	.25	.11	.0828
Coffee, per pound	1.00	.43	.58
Tea, per pound	1.00	.65	.975
Tobacco, per pound	2.50	.12-.75	.18-.60
Bacon, per pound	.45	.265	.1476

* 50% surcharge for transportation

Discontinuation of sales to civilians was recommended, "...on account of its competition with merchants, the service of customers other than military and the possibility of abuse of privilege and resultant scandal" (Inspector General 1909b). This advice was rapidly embraced, and there is some glee evident in the tone in which the Acting Secretary of War (1909) informed the Secretary of the Interior that the military no longer sold to civilian government employees (in denying such a request by the school teacher at Eagle, forwarded through the Commissioner of Education). In contrast with its reluctance to sell food and the like to civilians, the Army seems to have sold them medical supplies as a matter of course. Sales never were very large, and it is not known whether the Post Surgeon charged a fee for treatment of non-military personnel. However, the demand was clearly filled on a periodic basis (Register of Sales...1871-1913).

Basically, relations between the fort and the town seem to have been very smooth and cordial. There seems to have been little resentment directed toward the military, even in the early days when land was condemned and people somewhat displaced. Aside from the problems dealing with

drinking and those engendered by the wishes of civilians to acquire goods on post, interaction seems to have been free of stress. The townsfolk clearly appreciated the availability of medical aid, the money to be earned from jobs and contracts, and the impact that military shipping had on their port. When Fort Egbert finally did close there can be no doubt that the protestations of the Eagleites were thoroughly sincere, and that the post was missed for the enrichment it provided the local community, as well as the more tangible benefits.

Declining Years

The troops at Fort Egbert stood ready to defend the U. S. border, to quell disturbances of miners and generally keep the Fortymile region peaceful. In addition, the post served as a shipping and supply point for the men who built and manned the stations along the telegraph lines to Valdez and to Nome. However, the miners moved on to other gold fields and border traffic slowed to a trickle. The telegraph lines were completed and required little attention save from the Signal Corps men. These lines, too, were finally phased out. At Fort Egbert the men pulled garrison duty, and attended to their paper work and fed the livestock, and did their chores.

The end of the fort was swift, though indications had been in the air. The Army had been clearly reluctant to spend large amounts of money on the fort, and thus, in spite of various recommendations, there was no cold storage and no light plant built. However, as noted, an expensive gymnasium for the men had been completed in 1909 and clearly the fort was thought of as a permanent installation. The winter of 1910 produced the first thoughts of disassembly at Egbert, and from that time action was steady and sure. In a letter dated February 15, Brig. Gen. Marion P. Maus (Maus 1910a), Commanding Officer of the Headquarters of the Department of the Columbia, wrote to the Adjutant General of the Army in Washington to suggest a radical reorganization of troops in Alaska, on the grounds of efficiency and economy. He proposed (1) the enlargement of Fort Gibbon at Tanana from a two company post (like Egbert) to house one battalion (four companies) and the band, and to change its designation to that of regimental headquarters, (2) the abandonment of both Fort Egbert and Fort Davis (at Nome), save the few Signal Corps men needed for the telegraph stations, and (3) the redesignation of Fort William H. Seward, near Haines, from regimental headquarters to

battalion post. Maus urged that the changes be begun during the coming summer (the traditional time of rotation), or as soon as possible thereafter.

Maus' plan received a temporary setback when a War Department memorandum, signed by Brigadier General and Acting Chief of Staff U. Bliss, reported that there was no money for construction at Fort Gibbon for fiscal years 1910 to 1911 (Bliss 1910a), and he seems to have devoted some thought to the reorganization of the command structure of the Alaskan forts (Maus 1910b).

However, Bliss (1910b) soon took a stronger stand, and in a June 4 memorandum to the Assistant Secretary of War, he wrote:

"Since the preparation of a former report on this subject, a monograph on Alaska has been received from Major General J. F. Bell, former Chief of Staff, who made an inspection of the Alaskan ports in 1909.

"Among the recommendations contained in his report is the following relating to Fort Egbert:

"'The post should be abandoned next summer. The buildings could not be sold and unless the Department of Agriculture might like to keep the land and some of the buildings as an experimental station, they should be torn down and the materials moved to Fort Gibbon, where it may be useful in enlarging that post to accommodate four companies....With the material from Fort Egbert, and such other material as may be necessary, Fort Gibbon should be enlarged to accommodate the headquarters and four companies.'

"The Chief Signal Officer thought that the withdrawal of the garrison from Fort Egbert might preclude an efficient supply and maintenance of the northern half of the government telegraph line between Gulkana and Fort Egbert. The present number of troops on duty with and along the northern half of this line and distance of the different stations from Fort Egbert are as follows:

	<u>Signal Troops</u>	<u>Line Troops</u>	<u>Distance from Fort Egbert</u>
Fort Egbert	9		0
North Fork	2	1	60
Ketchunstock [sic]	2	1	120
Tanana Crossing	2	1	180

"The Quartermaster General states that the change of stations recommended by the Commanding General, Department of the Columbia, will make to material change in the transportation and supply of troops.

"As Fort Egbert is reported to be the most expensive post in Alaska to supply and as there is no longer any military necessity for its retention, it is thought that its garrison should be withdrawn when the 22nd Infantry leaves Alaska and the two companies of the 16th Infantry, now slated for Fort Egbert, be sent to Fort William H. Seward. This will postpone the abandonment of Fort Davis as recommended in the former report until Fort Gibbon can be prepared for the headquarters, band and one battalion of infantry."

The concluding recommendations were that sufficient money be allocated for fiscal year 1912 to enlarge Fort Gibbon, that when Fort Gibbon was ready to house its full complement of troops, a new assessment of the various Alaskan forts should take place, and finally, that the Commanding General of the Department of the Columbia be given discretionary authority to close Fort Egbert when the companies were due to be rotated (Ibid.).

Thus, the same day a telegram was sent to Maus saying

"...discretionary authority is given to you to leave Fort Egbert upon departure twenty-second Infantry...if you withdraw companies infantry...communicate directly with commanding officer, sixteenth Infantry concerning necessary resultant changes in assignment officers and companies. Assignments made by regimental commander will be sent you. Make such changes as interests service render necessary and report same. Telegraph decision to Egbert. Plan for transfer regiments contained in letter Quartermaster General April 27th and your indorsement thereon will be approved, provided Canadian Government authorizes passage of troops through its territory....If this authority is not communicated to you by tenth [June], arrange to withdraw Egbert garrison via Fort St. Michael..." (Alvord 1910).

At the usual rotation time, the garrison at Fort Egbert lost two companies and their officers and was replenished only by a detachment of about 30 men and two officers to man the post with its few Signal Corps men. The remainder of the two companies were stationed at Fort William H. Seward. In effect, Fort Egbert was now a signal station.

Since supplies for the fiscal year 1911 had already been ordered, a fast reshuffling, particularly in the area of shipments of perishable items took place. The early summer saw permission granted to the Commissary Sergeant at Fort Egbert to auction off 5,000 pounds of onions and 4,000 pounds of potatoes (Assistant to Commanding General 1910; Anonymous 1910b). In addition, a shipment of meat coming from a contractor was intercepted and rerouted, though the ultimate disposition of the 24,000 pounds of beef in question remains unclear (Dravo n.d.). Presumably, all non-perishable items were allowed to remain and/or were delivered since Fort Egbert's ultimate life span was still somewhat unclear.

The Army proceeded with its plan to reorganize its Alaskan forts so that Fort Gibbon would assume major importance, and set up a supply system to serve Forts Egbert and St. Michael as adjuncts of the Tanana post. Personnel would be relieved of the subposts twice a year, instead of once every two years, in an effort to keep up morale (Maus 1910c). However, the Army was still reluctant to abandon its infantry commitment entirely at Fort Egbert, at least until all ground lines of the telegraph system could be abandoned, and replaced by the wireless station. Graham (1909:14) reports the introduction of a three kilowatt wireless station to Fort Egbert. It is unclear when wireless communication entirely supplanted the ground lines. Major General Leonard Wood, Chief of Staff, summarized in a September 29 memorandum that:

"The maintenance of garrisons at Fort St. Michael, Fort Gibbon, Fort William H. Seward, and Fort Liscum is all that at present seems necessary. With the perfection of the wireless communication between Fort Egbert and Fairbanks, the detachment at Fort Egbert should be withdrawn. As soon as accommodations for which appropriations are to be asked are completed at Fort Gibbon, the garrison at Fort Davis (two companies) should be withdrawn and stationed at Fort Gibbon and the regimental headquarters and the band should be ordered to Fort Gibbon from Fort William H. Seward. Important mining interests in the vicinity of Valdez may require the retention of Fort Liscum at its present site of the development of new interests may necessitate the removal of its garrison to some other site in Southern Alaska. Should it be determined that this entire section can be properly cared for by the troops at Fort William H. Seward then, when no longer in connection with the telegraph lines, the garrison should

be sent to Fort St. Michael, and that post enlarged to accommodate a battalion" (Wood 1910).

Thus, the Army, by adapting to the changing population patterns reflecting changing economic and civil conditions in Alaska, spelled the end for Fort Egbert and Fort Davis on a short range basis, but also made it clear that they were adjusting their overall Alaskan policy. The first stage of the frontier had ended. The territory was firmly held and a relative degree of civil order prevailed. Maus (1910c), speaking of Nome, described it as "an orderly town and as fully able to preserve law and order as any of the western towns in the United States proper."

The citizens of Eagle City were unhappy at the withdrawal of the military presence and petitioned the Secretary of War in October of 1910, requesting restoration of a full garrison at Fort Egbert. Their major reasons were (1) the post provided jobs for idled prospectors, (2) the community would miss the post's large contracts for fuel and lumber, and for fresh vegetables in a minor way, and (3) the city could not afford a hospital, and the loss of the military hospital would discourage the settlement of families in the area. The petition had 117 signatures (Petition 1910).

The Acting Secretary of War (1910) replied to W. M. Gilliland, Mayor of Eagle, spelling out the Army's plan to phase out Fort Egbert entirely, and citing the expense of maintaining the isolated fort as the primary reason for withdrawal.

The townsfolk did not rest, however, and contacted their former neighbor, now Delegate to Congress for Alaska, James Wickersham, to act on their behalf. They were clearly most concerned about the loss of a physician, and while Wickersham's letter, dated February 8, 1911, reflects and cites this, his reasons on the whole were more hyperbolic. He wrote that loss of the fort would mean all the trade of the Fortymile region and the gold that was often the medium of exchange, would go to the Canadian town of Fortymile and leave U. S. hands; that the many Indians in the area required a military presence; that after all the money spent on "roadways, telegraph lines, etc., ...it will be a pity to see it all wasted and the country thrust back into barbarism...." Finally, he wrote, "if there ever was any excuse for building this post, making the large reservation of land there, building the wireless station and the telegraph lines, and the expenditure of

large sums of money in building up the plant which the government has there, the same reason exists for maintaining it" (Wickersham 1911).

What response Wickersham elicited in Washington, if any, is unknown. The Army proceeded in its objective to close the fort. The plans as of early April 1911 were to withdraw the remaining infantry detachment as soon as feasible, and to maintain Fort Egbert only as a signal station (Wood 1911). When precisely the wires ceased to be used at all, or if in fact it was felt that the Signal Corps men did not require infantry help in maintaining the telegraph lines, is unclear. The last major logistical step seems to have been obtaining clearance for the detachment from Fort Egbert to travel, with their guns and paraphernalia, across Canadian territory. Their destination was Fort William H. Seward. Permission had to be secured from the British Ambassador in Washington, relayed to the War Department through the Department of State. A series of telegrams (Telegrams 1911) starkly documents the departure of the infantry:

"June 22, 1911

"...Canadian Government had granted permission for detachment one officer and thirty-nine enlisted men, Fort Egbert, to pass through Canadian territory enroute Fort William H. Seward, Alaska, provided that colors and arms shall be placed in boxes while in transit through Canadian territory....

"August 3, 1911

"Commanding Officer Egbert reports thirty-one enlisted men left there six o'clock this morning enroute Fort Seward dispatched from Dawson afternoon fourth orders complied with as to arms etc.

"August 8, 1911

"Commanding Officer Fort Egbert Alaska reports withdrawal August eighth of remainder troops and property except that required at Signal Station."

Unfortunately, there is no record of the disposition of the military property at Fort Egbert. Was it shipped by steamboat to Fort Gibbon, slated for sale or sent, by riverboat and train to Fort Seward or even Fort Liscum?

What became of the beds and stoves, and the equipment for the gymnasium? It is likely that some was moved out the first summer of the dismantling of Fort Egbert, and also that some remained in Eagle, but if there is a list of articles moved, a bill of lading, it does not seem to be with the records of Fort Egbert. A government appraiser was told in 1926 that the sawmill and all machinery had been moved to Fort Gibbon; this is the closest to an eyewitness account in the National Archives (Carlisle 1926a).

Thus, the fort sat, abandoned, save for the few Signal Corps staffers. Over the years the Signal Corps used Building #5, Officer's Quarters, and the former Administration Building, Building #6. Building #18, built as NCO Quarters, was turned over to representatives of the Treasury Department on June 14, 1915, for use as a Customs House, and moved to Front Street within Eagle proper. There is indication that two other buildings were moved around this time. A telegram was sent in March 1914 from the Commanding General of Western Department headquarters at San Francisco to the Adjutant General, which relayed a request from the Commanding Officer at Fort Gibbon to move Building #25, the former Engineer's Quarters, to the Radio Station. An anticipated reduction in staffing mandated the radio operators live close to the station (about two miles from the post according to Graham) and the cost was estimated to be about \$200, but only if it could be accomplished before the end of sledding season (Commanding General 1914). There is also an indication, in the form of a cryptic endorsement of an Army circular, that Building #9, the Ordnance Storehouse, had been moved as of October 1913 (Ibid.). It was, as shall be seen later, claimed in 1925 by the Alaska Road Commission, so its history remains as something of a mystery.

In the winter of 1918, also, there was a move by the citizens of Eagle to acquire the land used as the town cemetery. The cemetery was on land within the military reservation, and permission had always been required before a burial could take place. What action the War Department took in response to this, if any, is not known (Resolution ...1918).

During the winter of 1925, all of the former military reservation at Fort Egbert, save those buildings and lands used by the Signal Corps and the Alaska Road Commission (which acquired property in Eagle in 1923), was turned over to the Department of the Interior, and specifically under

the jurisdiction of the General Land Office (Finney 1925). With a view to the sale of remaining buildings, and other property, an appraiser was appointed in July 1926. The appraiser, H. K. Carlisle, accompanied by two assistants, went to Eagle and filed a report on their findings the following autumn. It was noted that Building #2, Officers' Quarters, was used for storage purposes; Building #5, Officers' Quarters, was currently a radio station and living quarters for the operator (this calls into question the removal of Building #25, the Engineer's Quarters, although the location of the "Radio Station" of the 1914 communique was never specified); and Building #6, Administration Building, was being used as a storehouse, all by the Signal Corps. Carlisle noted that Building #2 was not, strictly speaking, within the Signal Corps reserve, though it was used by them. The Alaska Road Commission was using Building #4, Officers' Quarters, as a residence for Fred Price, then superintendent, and Building #33, Guardhouse, for storage. The Road Commission's reservation was a little over two acres according to Executive Order 4342 of November 1, 1925, and through this the Alaska Road Commission claimed Buildings #4, Officers' Quarters, #9, Ordnance Storehouse, and #33, Guardhouse, though Carlisle questioned their inclusion of Building #9 within so small a tract (Carlisle 1926a).

Besides the buildings, the only other materials found by the appraisers were 7,440 feet of three-inch galvanized pipe, 1,050 feet of two-inch galvanized pipe, 25 rods of woven wire fence, and one steam boiler (Ibid.). In addition, they found a dog corral, made of galvanized iron, but did not specify its location. There seemed to be a fair amount of local interest in an auction of salvage goods, and the appraisers recommended June or July, presumably of the coming year as a good time to attract people (Ibid.).

This, however, was the more or less public sale of the appraisal, and one reason for the recommendation of a speedy sale may have been a reaction of conditions at the fort, specifically having to do with the Road Commission. The Superintendent, Fred Price, was apparently salvaging lumber and galvanized iron for his own gain and selling it locally, rather than recycling materials as needed for the Road Commission purposes. In an alarmed letter to the Commission of the General Land Office written shortly after he arrived in Eagle, Carlisle reported that Buildings #27 and #39, Oil Houses, and #29, Telegraph Office, previously

acquired by the Road Commission, had been torn down and part of the material sold by Price around Eagle. Word in town (Price was not in the vicinity at the time) had it that the Superintendent was planning next to demolish Building #11, Quartermaster's Storehouse, which was sheathed with corrugated galvanized iron, and had offered the scrap for sale though work had not yet begun. Furthermore, the obviously irate and confused Carlisle wrote:

"He has gone around the building(s) at the post and gathered [sic] up windows and fixtures from the buildings and stored them in Building No. 33 which is used as a storehouse by the Road Commission. He had sold windows and doors, but as he has torn down several buildings for the Road Commission it is impossible to tell whether he has sold any which he has taken from the other buildings, or just what he got from the building torn down, but if he is not selling them, why should he be taken [sic] them from the other buildings. The material which he has sold has not been offered at public sale, but sold privately" (Carlisle 1926b).

There is no further reference to this affair in the records examined at NARS, but his name does not appear in subsequent records and his actions may have had some bearing on the lack of a Price Highway in Alaska. However, no action was taken toward the holding of a public auction of the Fort Egbert goods. Requests were sent to the General Land Office in Washington from time to time during the ensuing years and, while the records of these are not necessarily complete, it can be fairly assumed that unauthorized pilferage was minor at this time. The presence of the Signal Corps and Road Commission, coupled with a town the size of Eagle, would serve to inhibit would-be scavengers. Thus, in 1927, the Road Commission asked for and received permission to dismantle Buildings #23, Sawmill; #25, Engineer's Quarters; #34, Hospital; #35, Hospital Sergeant's Quarters; #41, Lumber Coal Shed; and #43/44, Heater House (Gillette 1927).

In the winter of 1928 some hydraulickers working in the Fortymile district offered \$100 to purchase and remove the angle iron in an old steel tower on the reservation, presumably from the wireless station. They proposed to dismantle the tower, cut up the angle iron into short lengths and use these for rifles (Lewis 1928). The Signal Corps, to whom the request was addressed, replied it had no use for the tower, which was erected in 1908 at

undetermined cost (the records having burned up in a fire in Seattle in 1916), but discovered later that the tower was a mile and one-half from the radio station and thus on Interior Department property (Hartman n.d.). Presumably the miners removed it.

In 1929 the Deputy Marshall of Eagle secured permission to use Building #29, built as a telegraph office and later used by the Road Commission, in order to repair the Courthouse (Ramsey 1929; Edwards 1929). This was handled through the General Land Office, indicating that they retained final responsibility over the fort property. By 1929, however, the Road Commission had received permission to dismantle the following buildings: #1, Officer's Quarters; #7, Ice House/Old Guardhouse; #10, Ice House; #13, Shop; #14, Quartermaster's Stables; #15, Wagon Shed; #16, NCO Quarters; #17, Granary; #20, Laundry/Old Hospital; #21, Barracks; #22b, Bakery; #24, Civilian Employees/Quarters; #30, Post Exchange; #32, Signal Corps' Barracks; #36, Gymnasium; and #38, New Pumphouse. This seems to have been a matter of option, for a number of the above listed structures were reappraised later, and sold.

In 1932, following the removal of a number of buildings for an airfield near the old Parade Ground, the General Land Office set about once more to sell the remaining buildings at Fort Egbert. The earlier appraisal was, of course, completely out of date, for the majority of the structures had been wholly or partly demolished, and the remainder were much altered by climate and neglect. A reappraisal statement was filed in February 1932 by a team of appraisers headed by Gifton R. Richards, describing those existing buildings which the Interior Department wished to auction off as follows (Richards 1932).

- "No. 1, Officers Quarters--doors and windows gone, floor and roof rotted, \$25.00.
- "No. 16, Non-commissioned [sic] officers quarters--door and windows gone, floor and roof rotted, \$10.00.
- "No. 20, Laundry building--roof badly dilapidated, \$25.00.
- "No. 21, Barracks--roof badly dilapidated, interior rotting, \$35.00.
- "No. 36, Gymnasium--good iron roof and fir floor, foundation posts rotting and building sagging badly, \$500.00.
- "No. 38, Pumphouse--no salable value.
- "No. 45, Old log pumphouse--no salable value."

The appraised items were offered for sale by bid in Juneau at 11:00 a.m., June 15, 1932. Building #16 was sold for \$10.00, #20 for \$31.00, #32 for \$35.00 and, surprisingly, Buildings #38 and #45 for \$5.00 a piece. No bids were submitted at that time for Buildings #1, #21, and #36 (Atkins 1932).

As of March 1932, the following buildings were said to be still standing at Fort Egbert: #1, Officer's Quarters; #3, Officer's Quarters; #5, Officer's Quarters; #12, Quartermaster's Warehouse; #14, Quartermaster's Stables; #17, Granary; #19, NCO Quarters; #21, Barracks; #22b, Bakery; #36, Gymnasium; and #44/45, Target House (Taylor 1934). At the time, the Officer's Quarters #3 and #5 had just been vacated by the Signal Corps, which apparently was closing its wireless operation at Eagle at that time. Building #21 had been sold by the General Land Office in Fairbanks for its appraised price of \$50.00 and was in the process of being wrecked. A bid had recently been offered of \$15.00 for Building #1 by John McWillim-Bourke of Eagle, and he had been advised that it was available only for the appraised price of \$25.00 through the Land Office in Fairbanks. The post Gymnasium still stood, rotting away, and was considered unsalable. The rest of the buildings were reportedly being used by the Road Commission, which had no plans at that time to demolish any others of them (Ibid.).

From then on, the physical decline of Fort Egbert becomes anonymous, at least in the National Archives records. Presumably, further structural demolition can be attributed to the Road Commission, making use of the salvage material available. No doubt time and weather had their effects as well.

CHAPTER V.

ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY: FORT EGBERT AND THE EAGLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

PROJECT AREA

The survey area, described in part in Chapter I, included the Fort Egbert "core area" (shaded area, Fig. 3) and portions of the Eagle Historic District located outside of the limits of the city of Eagle townsite (Fig. 3). During the one month allotted, four square miles of land, roughly 2,560 acres (bold line on Fig. 3), were intensively surveyed. Approximately two square miles of land, or 1,280 acres, were not surveyed (dotted line on Fig. 3). Some statement regarding the archeological potential of this area can be made, however, on the basis of survey results in the adjacent area.

SURVEY METHOD

Archeological survey of Fort Egbert and Eagle Historical District was undertaken between May 14 and June 10, 1977. Survey was conducted by a survey crew supervisor and a field crew which ranged from one to three individuals during the field season. Following the priority schedule outlined by BLM, the Fort Egbert core area was investigated first. This was followed by survey to the south of the core and then to the north and east. The entire survey was conducted on foot.

The first two weeks of the field investigation were devoted to surveying the core area of the abandoned Fort Egbert. The terms "core area" or "Fort Egbert core area" refer to the main activity area of Fort Egbert and includes all 45 building sites, the target range, cemetery, and water pipeline. Thus, the core area can be essentially delineated by extending a line from the site of the Sawmill (Building 23) in the northeast, west to the New Hospital (Building 34) further west to the Target Range, south to the "Trans-Alaska Military Road," west again to the pump-houses (Buildings 38 and 45), south to the water pipeline,

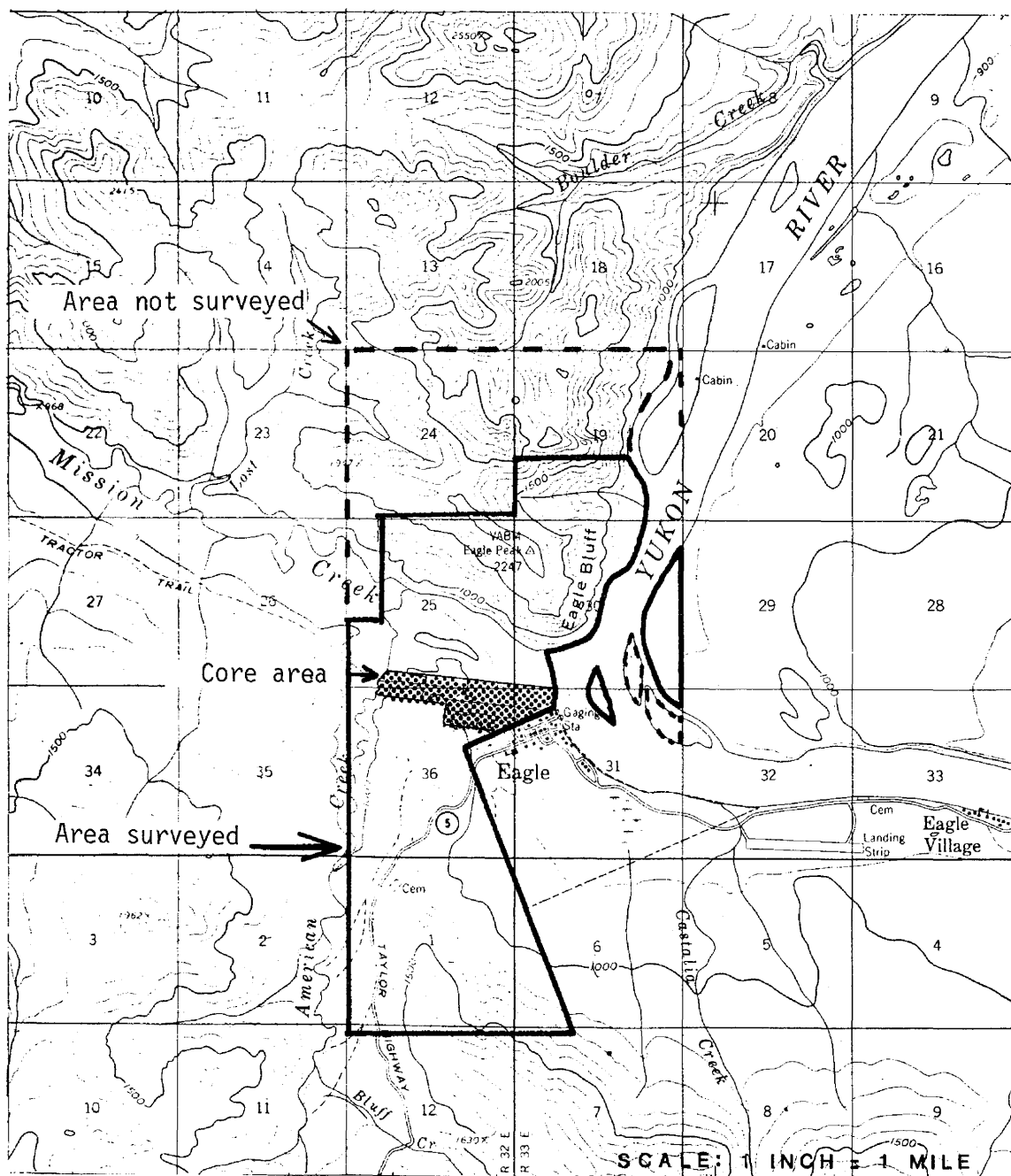


Fig. 3. Area of survey investigations.

east along the waterline route, further south to C Street, east along C Street to the bank of the Yukon River and thence north to the Sawmill (Building 23) (shaded area in Fig. 3).

This area was the focus of military operations during the fort's occupation. Some 45 main structures functioned as residences and/or facilities for communication, health services, transportation, recreation, storage, construction, maintenance, and administration. This area was surveyed by two individuals spaced 25 feet apart walking in transects along east/west lines. Surveyors looked for evidence of past human activity--prehistoric and historic. As stipulated in the contract agreement, the survey was essentially a surface survey and no random archeological test excavations were undertaken to find sites. Copies of the original maps of Fort Egbert dated between 1901 and 1912 were frequently consulted and reviewed to give the surveyors indications of building locations and functions. Cultural activity was evident in a variety of forms, ranging from surface and subsurface structural remains to associated debris such as five-gallon cans, from prehistoric stone tools and flakes to depressions in the ground surface where buildings had once stood and road cuts which were once the main avenues of the fort. Initially, an engineer's transit and a Philadelphia stadia rod were used to map site and feature localities from datum points established along a line at the boundary between Fort Egbert and the city of Eagle. This type of mapping was feasible for the southeastern portion of the core fort area where distances between sites were not great and before leaves had formed on the trees and bushes. This mapping technique, however, had to be abandoned for the remainder of the core area in favor of pulling tapes from established points and marking precise locations on earlier fort maps which had been made to scale. This revised technique allowed us to avoid cutting trees which would have been necessary if we had used the transit and stadia rod. It also allowed us more time to devote to archeological investigations.

The same information for each site and feature was recorded regardless of which mapping technique was employed. First, the limits of the structure, site, or cultural feature were mapped. The locations of several structures were indicated by the remains of the floor and/or subfloor systems. At such places, dimensional information was recorded regarding the floor plan and building materials. The condition of the remains was also noted. At other

localities, structural remains were virtually nonexistent. For these, dimensional information was noted for the ground feature which marked where the structure once was located. Other sites were more simply wood-lined pits, timber cutting areas, fences, roads, drainage ditches, and waterline routes. In addition to dimensional information, notes were taken regarding vegetation cover, present condition of the site, artifactual material present on or about the site, and current use or modification of the site, if any. Two photographs of each site, structure, or feature were taken, each at a different exposure setting. This insured a good photographic record which could be used to report or perhaps discover additional information which was not readily apparent during the site visit. This record (contact sheets, negatives, and photo logs) is on file at the Alaska Resources Library, Anchorage.

Archeological survey of the remainder of the Eagle Historic District outside of the city of Eagle townsite was similar in design and in terms of the nature of information recorded. All sites found were plotted on a copy of an original topographic map of the Fort Egbert Military Reservation in 1907-1908 (Hill 1908). Plotting locations on this map in the field was more precise than using a current U.S.G.S. map of 1:63,360 scale which lacks many of the topographic features that are present on the ground and were indicated on the Army's map. Results of the survey, however, are plotted on both maps, presented later (Figs. 50, 51). The survey team usually consisted of four individuals who walked approximately 50 feet apart in transect lines, rather than BLM's suggested 100 feet. This closer spacing of individuals proved best because the ground and forest cover of these outlying areas often is dense and easily conceals cultural material. Team members also were wary of black bears that were in the survey area at that time. Vegetation cover and topography combined to make this portion of the survey more time consuming than anticipated. The survey crew had to constantly break through densely vegetated areas and scale ridges with abrupt slopes several times during the day in order to survey by means of parallel transects. Dimensional data were recorded for structures such as cabins and fences, for campsites and other localities, and cultural features that were signs of past human activity. Other information was also recorded along the same lines as described above for the core area. A photographic record was also kept during this portion of the survey and is on file at the Alaska Resources Library, Anchorage.

Following the survey of the Fort Egbert core area and portions of the Eagle Historic District, a limited amount of time was devoted to returning to the sites of now-removed Fort Egbert buildings. Several sites observed during the field survey on the fort grounds seemed likely to yield a significant contribution to knowledge of fort activities. At these sites, testing with a soil auger was undertaken to determine the subsurface extent of the site and expose any activity zones which were not readily apparent from the surface in order to assess the archeological potential of each site.

RESULTS OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The archeological survey outlined above succeeded in locating a variety of sites, structures, and cultural features. The findings in the Fort Egbert core area are presented first, followed by the results of the survey in the surrounding area. Detailed descriptive data and historical background for all sites discussed below are in Appendixes II-IV. Field Survey numbers (F.S. #) have been assigned to sites located outside the core area and are used in the appendixes and on Figs. 50 and 51, as well as in the text in this chapter. Building site numbers within the core area are those originally assigned by the U. S. Army. The following discussion is of a general nature and also represents a sorting and analysis of the data presented in the appendixes.

Fort Egbert Core Area

In 1909, at the end of a decade of military operations, Fort Egbert possessed 45 buildings which functioned as part of the installation (Fig. 4). Seven categories have been delineated which characterize indications of past human activity in the core area. These categories of remains, located last summer, are illustrated on Fig. 5. Building numbers on Fig. 5 correspond to the original numbers assigned by the military to designate the buildings. Today, more than 68 years later, only five buildings (Category 1) still remain on the fort grounds, four of which are on their original building sites. Four others have been relocated to new sites in the community or elsewhere along the Yukon River. The remains of the other 36 buildings fall into six additional categories as determined from the archeological survey: building sites with some visible structural remains on the ground surface (Category 2);

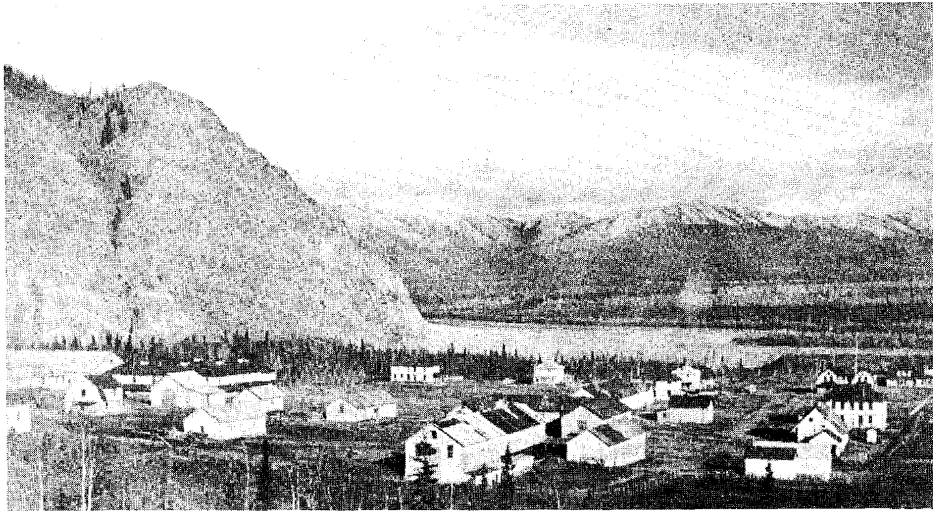


Fig. 4. Fort Egbert, 1920 (C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of Alaska Archives).

building sites where there is a distinct outline (such as an obvious pit) of the structure's location but no surface structural remains are present (Category 3); building sites where there is a faint outline of the structure's location (Category 4); and sites where there is no surface indication of the structure's location (Category 5). In addition to these categories, Category 6 includes other various types of remains in the core area; Category 7 includes prehistoric sites in the core area.

Category 1: Existing Buildings. Nine buildings at Fort Egbert still remain, either on their original sites or at a site of relocation. Buildings 12 (Quartermaster's Warehouse), 14 (Quartermaster's Stables), 17 (Granary), and 19 (Noncommissioned Officer's Quarters) are all located on their original sites on the fort grounds. Building 43/44 (Firehouse) is also on the fort proper, but has been relocated from its original site near the Barracks (Building 21) to a site between the Quartermaster's Warehouse and the Granary. Four of the original structures are located more distant from the fort. Both Building 7 (Ice Storage House/Old Guardhouse) and Building 18 (Noncommissioned Officer's Quarters) have been relocated in the city of Eagle, the former serving as a private residence and the latter as a museum. Building 22b (New Bakery) serves as a community hall in the native village of Eagle three miles east of the fort. Over 200 miles down the Yukon River at the native community of Fort Yukon, part of Building 21 (Barracks) now

KEY TO BUILDINGS IN FIG. 5

(Adapted from a drawing entitled "Fort Egbert, Alaska" in the records of the Alaska Road Commission, January, 1925.)

1	Commanding Officer's Quarters	24	Civilian Employees' Quarters
2	Double Set Officers' Quarters	25	Engineer's Quarters
3	Officer's Quarters	26	Commissary Warehouse
4	Double Set Officers' Quarters	27	Oil House
5	Officer's Quarters	28	Double Set Officers' Quarters
6	Administration Building/Post Headquarters	29	Telegraph Office
7	Ice Storage (Old Guardhouse)	30	New Post Exchange
8	Commissary	31	Hay Shed
9	Ordnance Storehouse	32	Signal Corps' Barracks (Old Post Exchange)
10	Ice House	33	New Guardhouse
11	Quartermaster's Storehouse	34	New Hospital
12	Quartermaster's Warehouse	35	Hospital Sergeant's Quarters
13	Shops	36	Gymnasium
14	Quartermaster's Stables	37	Straw Shed
15	Wagon Shed	38	New Pumphouse
16	Noncommissioned Officer's Quarters	39	Oil House
17	Granary	40	Tankhouse
18	Noncommissioned Officer's Quarters	41	Lumber and Coal Shed
19	Noncommissioned Officer's Quarters	42	Unidentified Building
20	Laundry (Old Hospital)	43/0	Workshop
21	Enlisted Men's Barracks	43/44	Firehouse (Heater House, Water Wagon Shed)
22a	Old Bakery	44/45	Target House (not shown)
22b	New Bakery	45	Old Pumphouse
23	Sawmill		

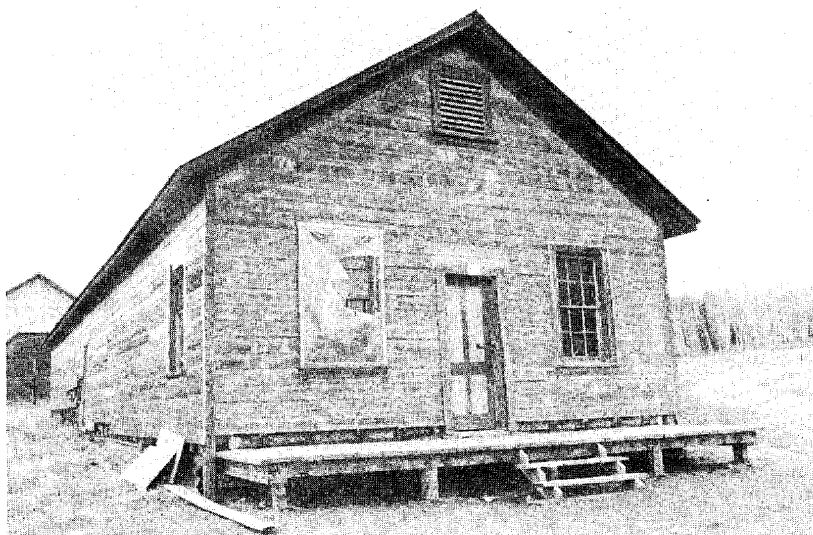


Fig. 6. Building 12 (Quartermaster's Warehouse) on its original building site--1977.

functions as a hotel. Appendix II of this report and the National Trust's preservation plan (n.d.) contain details on construction and use of these buildings during the time when the fort was occupied.

Five of these buildings have been the focus of recent stabilization and restoration activities of BLM. The areas around the perimeter of three of the structures--Building 12 (Quartermaster's Warehouse) (Fig. 6), 17 (Granary) (Fig. 7), and 19 (Noncommissioned Officer's Quarters)--were severely disturbed during the stabilization of the buildings and the regrading of the ground surface (Sprague 1975). Because of this disturbance, the archeological contribution of any remains from these sites is of little value. The area about Building 14 (Quartermaster's Stables) was only partially disturbed during the 1975 stabilization activities, and the remainder was the subject of our archeological excavations in 1977 which are discussed in Chapter V. The site of relocation of Building 43/44 (Firehouse, Water Wagon Shed) (Fig. 8) was also severely disturbed. Although Sprague (1975) reported that this site was the original site of Building 17, this appears to be incorrect, according to information on a 1905 map of the fort (Exley 1905). The original site of Building 43/44 was previously disturbed during the construction of the airfield and is discussed below under Category 5.

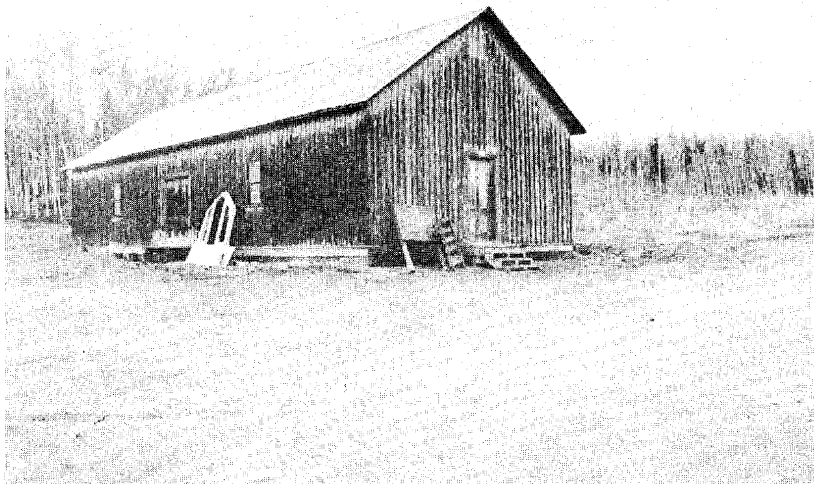


Fig. 7. Building 17 (Granary) on its original building site--1977.

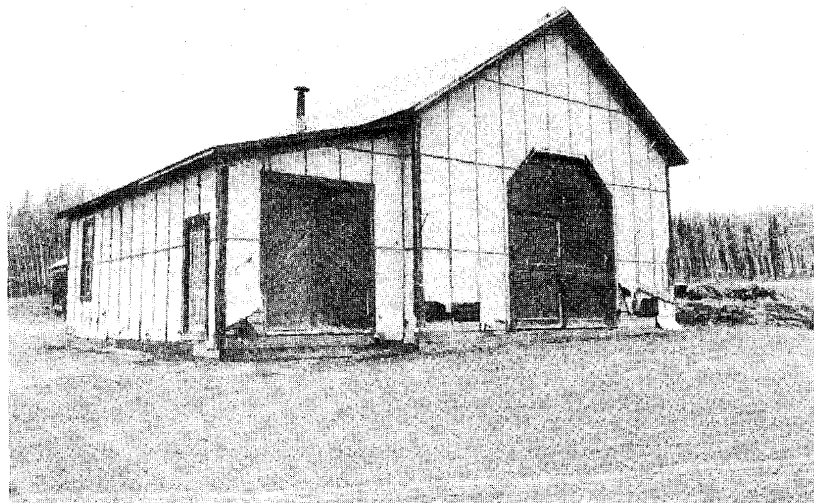


Fig. 8. Building 43/44 (Firehouse, Water Wagon Shed, Heater House) on its site of relocation--1977.

The remaining four structures are located farther from the fort, as noted above, and serve a variety of new functions since their removal. The original sites of the Barracks (Building 21) and the New Bakery (Building 22b) are discussed with others in Category 2 below, as are the Ice Storage Building/Old Guardhouse (Building 7) and the Noncommissioned Officer's Quarters (Building 18) which are included in Category 5.

Category 2: Building Sites with Structural Remains.
Ten of the original building sites are today represented by extensive structural remains in the ground surface. Some of these remains are entirely intact while others are only remnants of floor joists, floor boards, sill, and headers. Remains of Buildings 1 (Commanding Officer's Quarters), 20 (Old Hospital, Laundry), 24 (Civilian Employees' Quarters), 32 (Signal Corps' Quarters), 35 (Sergeant First Class Hospital Corps' Quarters) are the most intact, relative to others in this category, and could provide the basis for reconstructing the building techniques and materials used in the original construction. Four of these building sites are now indicated by the presence of structural remains embedded in the humus layer of the ground surface. This layer which consists of leaves and/or moss with aspen saplings growing within the perimeter of the building site is underlain by the usual bar sand of the area.

At the site of Building 1, most of the first level rooms can be delineated by the presence of structural remains, and with the historic data we can determine the function of these rooms. The material remains about the site and in the refuse area over the bank from this building, coupled with the historic record, provide a comparatively good picture of human activity at this site. Even some of the remains of a picket fence which enclosed an area one could view from the bay window of the dining room were found during the survey and were later observed in an early twentieth century photograph of the site (Figs. 9, 10). Archeological tests with a soil auger at two points within the structure revealed a red-brown claylike layer to a depth of four inches beneath the ground surface, underlain by a gray-brown claylike soil for an additional five inches in depth. At another locality, floor planks, probably of a wood shed, were still visible in the leaf/moss mat. Thus, it appears that archeological excavations at this building site would be limited to uncovering the limits of the structure and the nature of the floor system and to recovering other cultural material that is in the few inches

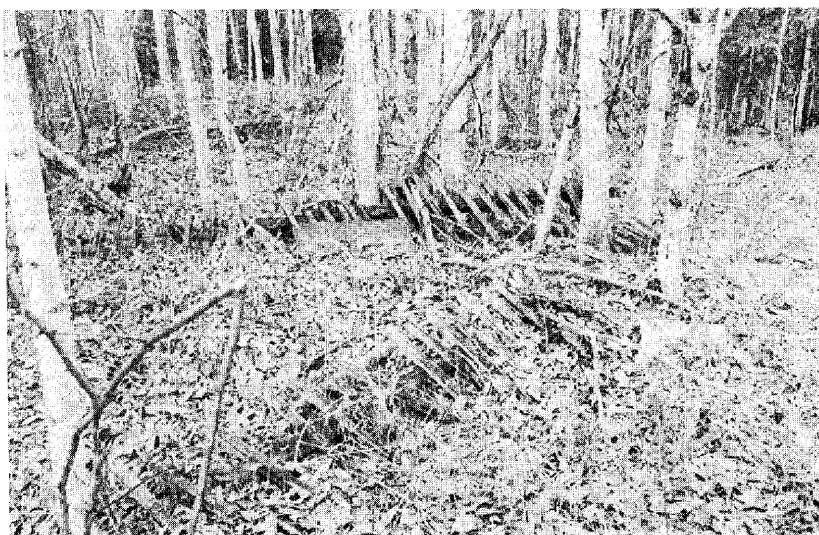


Fig. 9. Fence remains at the site of the Commanding Officer's Quarters (Building 1)--1977.



Fig. 10. Commanding Officer's Quarters (Building 1), 1905 (C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon Archives).



Fig. 11. Site of Building 20
(Old Hospital, Laundry)--1977.

beneath the humus level. Outside of the structural limits, however, a thicker cultural level may be present due to its more extended exposure to human activities. Systematic test excavations at the site could probably determine whether the building site has the potential for making an archeological contribution to understanding past life ways at Fort Egbert beyond construction techniques and materials.

The site of Building 20 (Old Hospital, Laundry) is similarly characterized by wooden structural debris from the foundation and floor system and a probable cellar, but remains are not nearly as extensive as those found at Building 1. Material remains are limited to a predominance of shingles and corrugated iron (Fig. 11). Several features such as ditches along with the presence of some lead pipe (presumably drainpipe) and a possible boiler probably relate to the later use of the site as a laundry rather than its earlier function as the hospital. There are no historic data indicating the hospital had laundry rooms. A picket fence found nearby apparently enclosed an undefined area of a yet unidentified activity just beyond the limits of the structure (Fig. 12). A modified five-gallon can similar to those used as feeding dishes found at the dog kennels at Building 14 was in the same locality (Fig. 12). The history of this site, along with the unidentified activity areas found during our survey and possibly associated with the use of Building 20, points to the potential for archeologically documenting the multiple use of the



Fig. 12. Fence remains and modified can near the site of Building 20--1977.

site--first as a hospital, later as a laundry, and some unknown patterned activity in the adjacent area. Still, it is possible that evidence of these different activities through time may not be recovered archeologically. During the conversion of the old hospital to a laundry, structural and material evidence of the initial activities may have been disturbed from its original context. The final removal of the building after it was sold in 1932 further contributed to destroying remains. Systematic archeological test excavations should show whether excavation can contribute to our knowledge of a variety of past human activities at this locality.

The remains at the site of Building 24 (Civilian Employees' Quarters) consist almost entirely of structure from the floor and foundation system (Fig. 13). Piers, sills, and joists are clearly visible above and in the ground surface. Stove pipe, flashing, and terra cotta chimney fragments were observed on the ground adjacent to the actual building site of the structure. This relatively modest structure served as quarters for up to 16 civilian "teamsters and packers." The Alaska Road Commission received authorization to dismantle in 1929 (Record Group 49). It is likely that archeological remains might shed comparative light on the behavior of civilian employees at this military outpost. Well-planned and systematic limited test excavations should reveal whether or not there is any potential for this contribution.



Fig. 13. Structural remains of the site of Building 24 (Civilian Employees' Quarters) --1977.

Material and structural remains appear to be more extensive at the site of Building 32 than at any other locality in the core area of Fort Egbert. This building originally served as the Post Exchange but later housed 10 men of the U.S. Signal Corps. The building was transferred to the Alaska Road Commission in 1929 "to dismantle" but was sold in 1932 (Record Group 49). The buyer presumably dismantled the building for material but, as revealed during our survey, left behind much of the material used in the construction of the superstructure (Fig. 14). The entire floor and subfloor systems are well preserved and intact. Adjacent to the structure and over the bank, a large quantity of items associated with the operation of the communications system, such as glass and metal conductors (Fig. 15), were deposited. An historic architect would have no difficulty in reconstructing the original structural fabric of this building by measuring and recording the extensive remains still present and consulting the blueprints and elevation drawings which depict this as an architecturally impressive building. Because of the multiple uses of this building by a variety of military men as a Post Exchange and later as quarters for the Signal Corps personnel, and its extended use and occupation beyond the abandonment of the fort, it would appear that the potential contribution of archeology from remains uncovered around this structure would be significant. In addition,

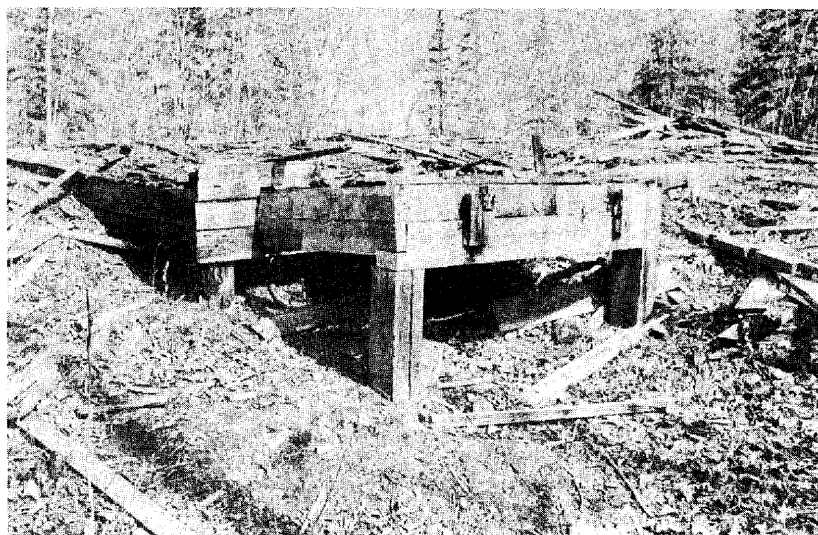


Fig. 14. Extensive structural remains at the site of Building 32 (Signal Corps' Quarters, Old Post Exchange)--1977.



Fig. 15. Structural and material debris at the site of Building 32--1977.

much of the structural debris deposited around the margins of the structure probably has disguised and preserved the cultural remains beneath.

At the site of the Hospital Corps' Quarters (Building 35), relatively extensive structural debris was found, and a variety of material items observed nearby (Fig. 16). The site is well-delineated, complete with an apparent cellar and the outline of a probable wood shed at the rear. This building was one of the later structures built at Fort Egbert in 1908, and thus was occupied for only three years prior to the abandonment of the fort. Although a map drafted in 1925 by the Alaska Road Commission noted that it was sold at that time, the historic record also shows the Road Commission was granted authority "to dismantle" it in 1927. It is clear, however, from the remains at the site that the structure was removed, although some subsurface pieces remain. The relatively short-term occupation of the building by only one or two medical personnel does not seem to suggest that archeological investigations might make any major contribution.

Five other building sites with structural remains were also located but are not characterized by the presence of these remains throughout the site area as are those previously mentioned. These include Buildings 21 (Enlisted Men's Barracks), 22b (New Bakery), 34 (New Hospital), 36 (Gymnasium), and 40 (Tankhouse).

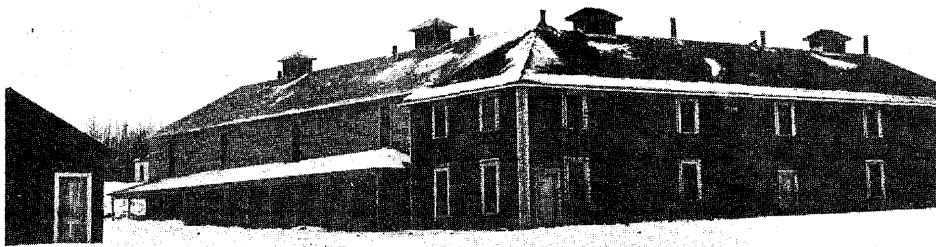


Fig. 16. Site of Hospital Corps' Quarters (Building 35)--1977.



Fig. 17. Structural remains of the south wing of Building 21 (Barracks) --1977.

Structural debris from the floor and subfloor systems for the Barracks is present where the south wing was located (Fig. 17) and along the east wing only where a porch addition was built. At these two localities the vast amount of wooden remains represent construction materials and techniques employed in building the two additions to the Barracks (Fig. 18). A variety of material items, almost all associated with the structure rather than its occupants, were observed. These, which were prominent on the sandy ground surface at the building site, included nails, shingle fragments, sash weights, siding, and corrugated sheet-metal fragments. While the outlines of the east and west wings are distinct, little structural debris was present. A wood-lined pit, possibly a cellar of some sort, was located within the limits of the west wing. At the rear of the structure, the site was ill-defined and is presumably the area where the latrine additions were made. Several subsurface probes with a soil auger revealed that the structure, like most others tested, was constructed directly on the bar sand present throughout the area and in most areas has not been stained by human activity or organic decomposition. At one locality a gravel horizon was present beneath a two-inch sand level just below the ground surface but was underlain with bar sand. Our tests were not extensive enough to determine whether the gravel indicated the presence of a walkway behind the south wing or perhaps was placed there to drain water falling off the



The Barracks

Fig. 18. The Enlisted Men's Barracks (Building 21), ca. 1902 (C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of Alaska Archives).

roof. In one photograph of Fort Egbert, it is clear that a porch extended around the entire structure. However, remains of this were visible only along the margin of the east wing, as noted above.

The Barracks at Fort Egbert is perhaps the most complex structure of the garrison. The three wings are indicative not only of different periods of construction but also contained several additions, such as the porches and latrines. The building not only provided dormitory space for the enlisted men but also cooking and dining facilities, along with several other rooms devoted to other activities. It remained empty after it was abandoned until sometime in the 1930's when it was dismantled. Thus, it would seem that the archeological potential of the site is relatively great but only systematic test excavations could confirm or deny this. Archeologically it does not appear that the limits of the structure could be delineated very well at much of the site.

The site of the New Bakery (Building 22b) is represented primarily by the presence of a concrete slab and brick oven, with some structural remains present in the ground surface along one margin. The size of the slab and

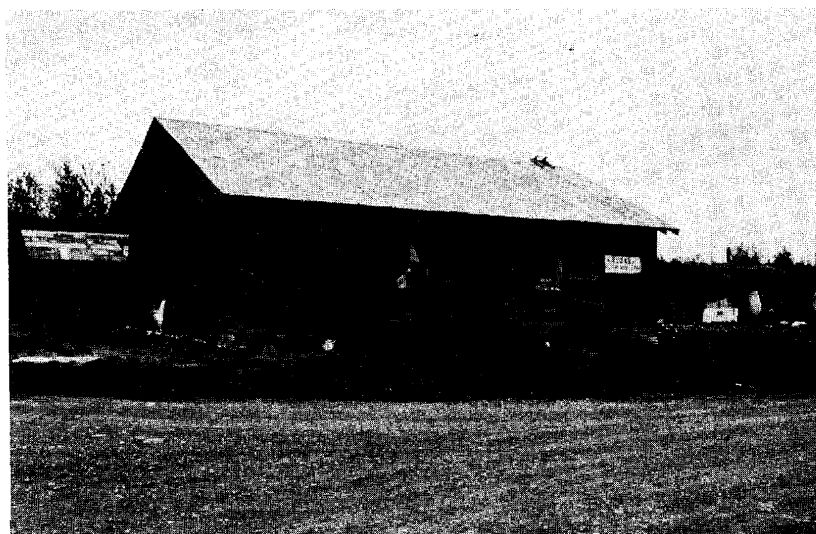


Fig. 19. The New Bakery (Building 22b) relocated in Eagle Village--1977.

adjacent remains are much smaller, however, than the actual dimensions of the log superstructure once located at the site (Fig. 19). Only a few material items were found adjacent to the site. While detailed architectural information can still be derived from the superstructure, which now functions as the community hall in the village, the archeological contribution of the original site appears minimal. The limits of the building site could probably be determined by other means, i.e., with the aid of old photographs and maps. One would expect that if the larger material items associated with institutional baking were not removed, they would be apparent from the surface of this relatively recently buried site.

Remains at the site of the New Hospital (Building 34) consist of a few of the original walls still in place (some supported by recent bracing), some structural debris and stairwells, along with a fairly distinct outline of the building site and two cellars (Fig. 20). Four walls remain in place along with some of the fallen remains of the hip roof which once covered the structure. Only two areas within the main structure revealed structural remains of the floor and subfloor systems. Additional structural materials were found intact in the ground surface at a point where a wood shed was attached and along the southwest margin where there was formerly a porch. Virtually no material items not associated with construction were observed within the limits of the building site or

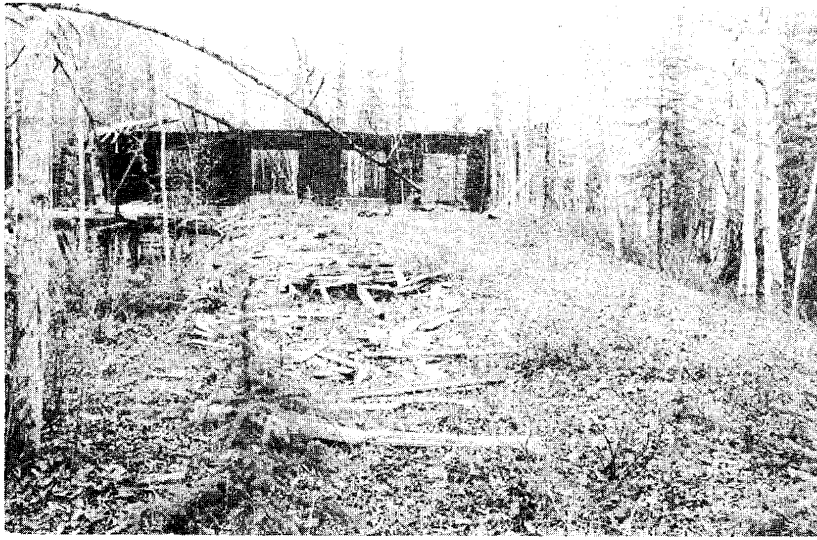


Fig. 20. Structural remains at the site of the New Hospital (Building 34)--1977.

immediately adjacent. A variety of items, however, were noted 20 to 50 feet from the structure, including ceramic dishware, metal cooking utensils, and at one locality a deposit of broken and melted medicine bottles.

According to a 1925 map of the fort drafted by the Alaska Road Commission, this structure was sold at that time. In 1927, however, it is recorded that the Road Commission received permission "to salvage" the building. Whether the Road Commission or someone else salvaged the building is irrelevant. It is evident that whoever dismantled the structure did an incomplete job since several large walls still remain. One might assume that the salvage of material items was interrupted and useful objects deposited nearby were left behind. The relative remoteness of this building from the Fort Egbert refuse area or dump could have been another factor in the deposition of some items in the vicinity when the fort was being abandoned. Thus, while the archeological potential of the building site per se may appear of inconsequential value on the surface, surface deposits beyond the site indicate the possibility of significant archeological remains at some localities. Systematic test excavations within the site, at points around the perimeter, and beyond should reveal whether the occupation and abandonment of the hospital was as fastidious as one might expect at a medical facility.

Remains at the site of the Gymnasium (Building 36) are almost entirely confined to the locality where the bowling alley was situated and to the southern portion of the building where the lavatory facilities were located. Some wood floor and subfloor debris is visible in the ground surface along the west limit which housed the bowling lanes. Galvanized lead pipes and a galvanized sheet-metal box embedded in the ground, as well as stove pipe fragments, cans, and bottles on the surface, were the only items observed. The main area of the Gymnasium was characterized by a moderately defined sandy depression. East of the structure was found a fairly deep wood-lined pit in good condition which functioned as the cesspool for the Gymnasium.

It is unclear when the building which the Alaska Road Commission had been authorized to dismantle in 1929 was actually dismantled. It was still standing in 1932 when it was put up for auction but received no bid (Record Group 49). The few remains visible at the site are evidence of a rather complete salvage undertaking. The archeological potential is probably low since virtually all of the gymnasium equipment--relatively expensive and large--was probably shipped out with other goods when the fort was abandoned. Other material items left by the men who used the building and which might be archeologically recovered would not necessarily be related to the use of this building as a gymnasium and could probably be found at other localities at the fort.

Category 3. Building Sites with Distinct Outlines. Both the Officer's Quarters (Building 3) and the New Pump-house (Building 38) can still be delineated from an existing surface outline, although very few surface structural remains exist. Building 3, located within a predominantly aspen forest, is well-defined along its entire perimeter. Three deep depressions are also obvious within the structure's limits (Fig. 21). A few isolated wooden structural pieces were found, while numerous corrugated sheet-metal fragments, assorted cans, glass, and stove pipe fragments were also present. The site of Building 38 was distinctly outlined on three of its four margins with some flooring in place. A crate, a five-gallon can, and the boiler also were noted.

Both structures were removed from their locations, according to reports. Building 3 was first turned over to the Department of Justice, presumably to function as the U. S. Marshall's office, as noted on a 1925 map. Later it



Fig. 21. Site of Building 3 (Officer's Quarters)--1977.

was dismantled by the Office of Indian Affairs (Record Group 49; Grauman n.d.). Building 38 was sold for \$5 in 1932 (Record Group 49). Building 3, however, shows extensive signs of burning. Almost every item noted and the few structural remains are charred, and a thick concentration of ash is at one locality within the structure site. Several limited test excavations with a soil auger revealed a brown organic level (cultural) two inches thick beneath the leaf mat covering the site. This level is underlain by at least 11 inches of bar sand, which is present throughout the terrace on which the fort is situated. Another test showed an ash level underlain by red-brown soil (presumably altered from the burn). Metal and wood fragments prevented augering in one of the deep pits, but in another, a brown organic level nearly nine inches in depth was revealed. On the basis of these few auger tests it is difficult to make any firm conclusions about the significance of the remains. It is possible that the building was turned over to the Office of Indian Affairs to be dismantled, but may have burned prior to this action. If this were the case, however, much more debris should have remained unless it was removed after the fire. Sites containing structures that have burned often provide much archeological information. This may not be the case with the site of Building 3 since the history of the building does not seem clear. Still, more material items and a wider variety of them were observed at this site than at any other building site in the core area. Thus, systematic, but not necessarily extensive, archeological test excavations could determine



Fig. 22. Material items in refuse area near Building 3 (Officer's Quarters)--1977.

the nature and extent of the archeological information which might be recovered at this site and whether this information might make a significant contribution to historical archeology and the interpretation of the Officer's Quarters at Fort Egbert. Extensive debris was also observed in the dump over the bank from Building 3 (Fig. 22).

In spite of its well-defined limits, Building 38 does not provide as extensive remains on the surface as does Building 3. Test excavations may reveal relatively significant remains. This building housed the boiler and pump for operation of the water system. Because of the remoteness of this facility and the absence of clear evidence of a refuse area near the site, it is likely that some items may have been disposed of near the structure. As with other building sites, systematic excavations should show what contribution the archeological evidence, if any, might make.

Category 4. Building Sites with Faint Outlines.

Eleven buildings, nearly 25 percent of the original 45 structures, are represented only by faint outlines or sandy depressions where the buildings once stood. Some areas still contain a few items of debris or remnant machinery which linked the site with its original function. Six building sites were characterized only by a sandy expanse or outline (sites of Buildings 10, 15, 27, 33, 37, 45). These features consisted of either a predominantly



Fig. 23. Site of Building 10 (Ice House)--1977.

sandy area outlined by the growth of small aspen trees (Fig. 23) or were characterized within a spruce-aspen forest by an obvious depression covered with a thick cover of leaves and humus. The remaining five building sites (13, 23, 30, 39, and 41) included some material debris which includes a few brick fragments found at one site; a pipe fitting, corrugated sheet metal, a saw blade at another site; and a possible fly wheel at the site of the Sawmill (Building 23). Several features associated with the site of the Sawmill (Building 23) were not identified but nevertheless contribute to the visibility of that site. A few structural remains were observed at the site of Building 13 by another archeologist (Sprague 1975) in 1975. However, none were found during our 1977 survey. Sprague also noted a boiler at what he thought was Building 45. In fact, we have determined this to be the site of Building 38. Building 45 was located opposite Building 38, according to a map of Fort Egbert (Peek n.d.).

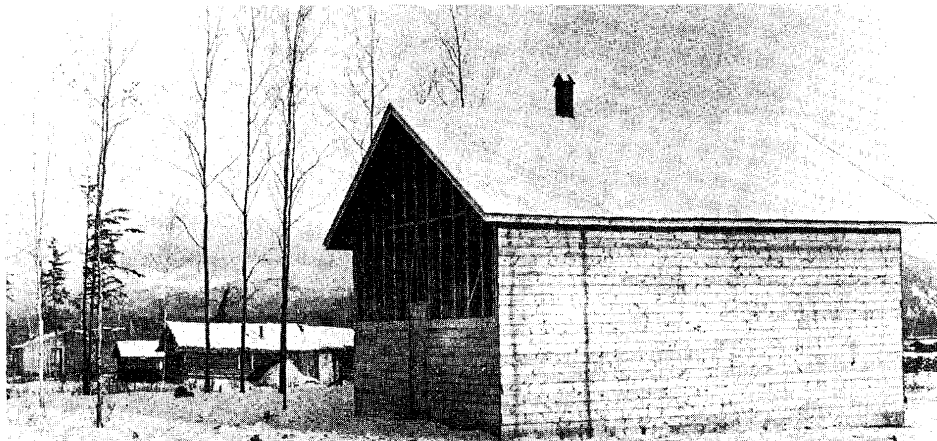
As noted above, the ground surface at most of these sites was characterized by an ill-defined sandy area or consisted of a depression with a thick leaf cover. Six of the buildings which once stood on these sites were transferred to the Alaska Road Commission "to salvage" or "to dismantle" (Buildings 13, 15, 23, 27, 30, 41), and two (Buildings 10 and 15) were sold. Five of these eight sites are visible only as ill-defined sandy expanses with an occasional surface artifact, while three are shallow depressions lacking structural remains. One (Building 30)

appears to have been further leveled after the building was removed since evidence of a tracked vehicle crossing the site is obvious in several areas. Timbers from the Sawmill (Building 23) were allocated to the city of Eagle, while the Old Pumphouse was sold for \$5 (Grauman n.d.; Record Group 49). The final disposition of the other buildings included in this category (Buildings 33 and 37) is uncertain. They were probably salvaged or sold since no structural remains were found at either of those sites.

Limited archeological tests were made with a soil auger at the sites of Buildings 10 and 33. No cultural horizon was visible in the 10-inch soil profile of Building 10 site, which consisted entirely of bar sand to a depth of four inches at one locality and eight inches at another. This level was underlain by a dense mottled claylike level and another level of bar sand. The soil profile from the site of Building 33 revealed a humus layer followed by mixed sand, clay, gravel, and decomposed granite level underlain by bar sand.

It appears that on sites characterized by a sandy expanse resulting from the removal of most of the structures, subsurface archeological evidence of the structures and their limits was obliterated. This is not surprising in the case of Building 10 where little surface modification was made during its construction (Fig. 24). Only surface features, usually ill-defined and with no structural remains, mark the approximate location of the building sites in this category. Following a brief archeological survey of Fort Egbert in 1975, Sprague usually assigned a moderate archeological excavation priority to most of these sites. This apparently was based on the often ill-defined but visible nature of them and the few artifacts sometimes found associated with them (Sprague 1975). During our survey, however, we found little surface evidence suggesting any significant archeological remains, but systematic test excavations could confirm or disprove this. At the other sites, test excavations would reveal the subsurface nature of those sites and indicate the extent and/or significance of those localities.

Category 5. Building Sites with No Surface Indication of Location. Forty percent (19 sites) of the buildings of Fort Egbert are not represented by any visible modifications on the ground surface. Structures for which remains no longer are visible include Buildings 2 (Double Set Officers' Quarters), 4 (Double Set Officers' Quarters),



The Ice House

Fig. 24. "The Ice House" (Building 10), ca. 1901 (C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of Alaska Archives).

5 (Officer's Quarters), 6 (Administration Building/Post Headquarters), 7 (Ice Storage, Old Guardhouse), 8 (Commissary), 9 (Ordnance Storehouse), 11 (Quartermaster's Storehouse), 16 (Noncommissioned Officer's Quarters), 18 (Noncommissioned Officer's Quarters), 22a (Old Bakery), 25 (Engineer's Quarters), 26 (Commissary Warehouse), 28 (Double Set Officers' Quarters), 29 (Telegraph Office), 42 (Unidentified Building), 43/0 (Workshop), 43/44 (Heater House, also called Fire House or Water Wagon Shed), and 44/45 (Target House).

Evidence of more than half of these building sites was probably obliterated during construction of the airfield which nearly bisects the main activity and structural area of the fort (sites of Buildings 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 16, 18, 22a, 26, 28, 43/44, 44/45) (Figs. 25, 26, 27). The results of this construction appear today in the level, but gradually sloping, airstrip, with its short grass ground cover. Two dirt roads cross the airfield and two dirt roads parallel the north and south limits. Other building sites have perhaps been disguised by natural vegetative growth in the area or cannot be seen because buildings were removed early in the century (sites of Buildings 8, 9, 11, 25, 29, 42,



Fig. 25. Airfield at Eagle and obscured sites of Buildings 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 16, 18, 22a, 26, 28, 43/44, 44/45--1977.

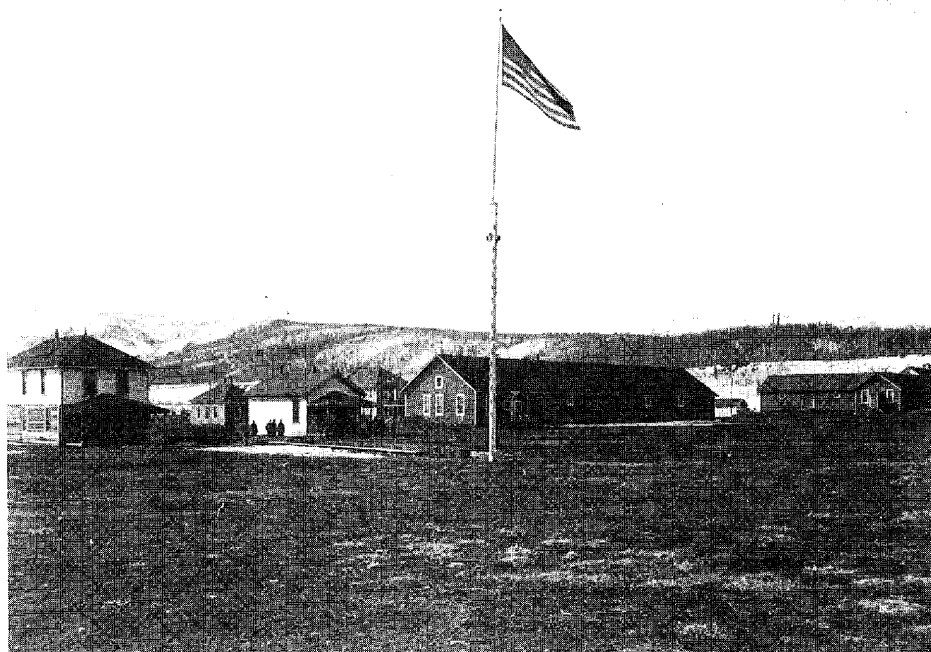


Fig. 26. Fort Egbert, early twentieth century (Buildings 6, 7, 8, 11, 29, 30, and Parade Ground) (C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon Archives).



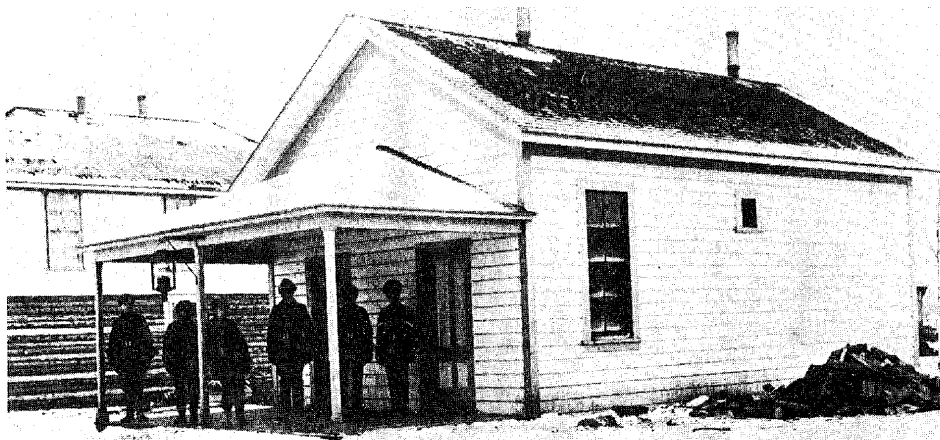
Fig. 27. Building 2 (Double Set Officers' Quarters), 1905 (C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon Archives).

43/0) (Fig. 28). Vegetative growth at these sites ranges from the dense willow, rose bush, and cottonwood in a moist area near the site of Building 25 to the comparatively open aspen forest which has succeeded at the formerly cleared areas about Buildings 9, 29, and 42. One building site was additionally obscured by fill activity in 1975 (site of Building 11) and two others (Buildings 16, 26) were further disturbed during the same year by ground grading activity (Sprague 1975).

The archeological potential of any of these building sites is questionable. Clearly, airfield and road construction has disturbed the context in which the materials were originally deposited making the archeological recovery of any of these of little value. It was reported that prior to the construction of the airfield, several buildings were salvaged in whole or part by the Alaska Road Commission (Buildings 8, 11, 25, 28, 29); at least two were sold (Buildings 7 and 16); and one was relocated (Building 43/44) even though it was transferred to the Alaska Road Commission "to salvage" (Alaska Road Commission 1925; Record Group 49) (Figs. 8 and 29). Another, Building 26 (Commissary Warehouse), was turned over to the Deputy Marshall to remove (Fig. 30). Building 18 was transferred



Fig. 28. Site of Building 8 (Post Commissary) (foreground) and Buildings 6 (Administration Building) and 7 (Ice Storage House, Old Guardhouse)--1977.



*The Guard House
Fort Enbert Alaska*

Fig. 29. Building 7 (Ice Storage House, Old Guardhouse), ca. 1901 (C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of Alaska Archives).



Commissary Salesroom & Store House

Fig. 30. "Commissary Salesroom & Store House" (Building 26), early twentieth century (C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of Alaska Archives).

to the Treasury Department for use as a customs office and now serves as a museum on Front Street in Eagle (Fig. 31). It is likely that many of the sites were disturbed prior to construction of the airfield, further eliminating the likelihood of excavation revealing any significant archeological contribution. Rather than argue for total excavation during the re-creating and interpreting of Fort Egbert (Sprague 1975), one might argue for systematic test excavations to determine whether any of these sites have suffered from previous disturbance, as surface appearance and historic record suggest. Additionally, test excavations would allow one to determine the comparative significance of these building sites. Excavation to determine original site location is not necessary since survey of the area revealed that most building sites could be relocated with the combined use of original maps and reference points, which can still be established from remaining cultural features in adjacent areas and an engineer's transit.

Category 6. Remains of Other Activity Areas Found in the Fort Egbert Core Area. A number of features and activity areas were located within the core area (Appendix III). Some of these were directly related to the operation

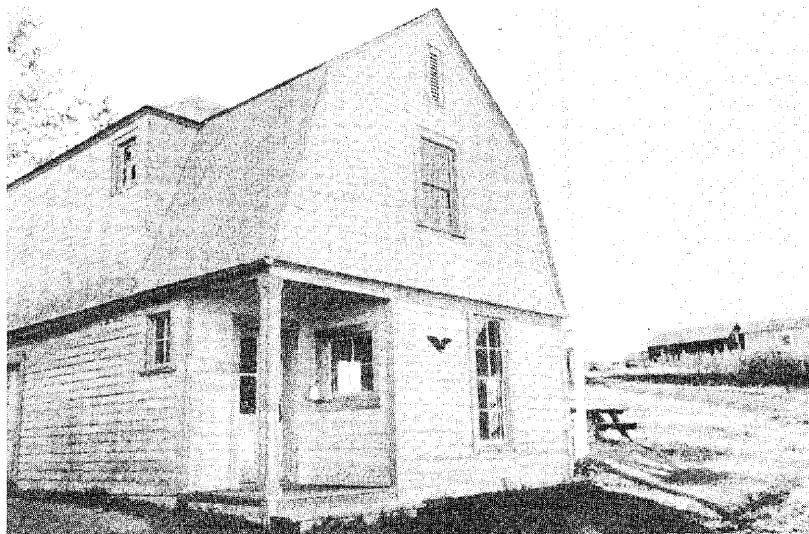


Fig. 31. Building 18, formerly NCO Quarters and later Customs Office, now functions as Eagle Museum--1977.

of the fort, while others did not conclusively function in regard to the garrison.

Group A includes surface indications of roadways. In surveying the core area, we had several of the original maps of the fort, but consulted two later maps regarding roads since these were most applicable to any remains which might be visible in 1977. Roads which are presently used and do not coincide with the military roads are not presented.

Portions of most of the roads associated with the occupation of the fort are still visible, although in various degrees (Fig. 5). No indication of one of the major thoroughfares could be seen on the ground surface, however. Both roads connecting the core area with Mission Creek and the Yukon River, from the point where the roads leave the top of the terrace on which the fort was situated, are not only clearly visible but still function as roadways. The road to Mission Creek was specifically labeled "Wood Road" on a 1901 map and terminated at the site of the fort's first woodyard near Building 21 (Fitzpatrick 1901). The road to the Yukon River clearly linked the site of the Sawmill with the western limit of the second woodyard located above the Sawmill (Kelly 1904). Similarly, C Street (Fig. 5), located along the south limit of the core area, is still visible and is used by the local population, especially between First and Fourth Streets. While the



Fig. 32. Fort Egbert terminus of the Trans-Alaska Military Road--1977.

Fort Egbert terminus of the Trans-Alaska Military Road, or Valdez Road as it was sometimes called (Fig. 32), is apparent as a road cut near the site of Building 22b, the remainder of it seems to coincide with the current road connecting the core area with American Creek and the BLM campground. It is clear, then, that the roads of Fort Egbert which are most visible today and are still used are those which link the core area with waterways.

Several other roads can still be delineated, although they are partially overgrown with aspen and are not passable with a standard four-wheeled vehicle. These roads (Fig. 5) include the road which loops around the site of Building 34 (New Hospital) from the former Valdez Road to the site of Building 20 (Old Hospital, Laundry). It once continued to the site of Building 11 (Quartermaster's Storehouse), where it terminated at the junction of a road which cross-cut the entire core area in a roughly east-west fashion. The extension of the road between Buildings 20 and 11 is not clear on the surface, however, having been obliterated by the airfield and/or a current road crossing the airfield in this area. Similarly, the roads between Building 1 (Commanding Officer's Quarters) and Building 3 (Officer's Quarters) and between Building 14 (Quartermaster's Stables) and Building 11 (Quartermaster's Storehouse) (Fig. 33) are well-defined but partially overgrown. The latter road appears to have been built up as shown in the soil profile presented later in this report in the



Fig. 33. Road cut south of Buildings 11 and 14--1977.

chapter on the archeological excavations. There is no evidence of the remainder of this road between Building 11 and the edge of the bank above the Sawmill (Building 23), since it has been obliterated by the construction of more recent roads and the airfield or by natural growth. The extension of the other road which once passed in front of most of the officers' quarters and connected them with the Guardhouse (Building 33) at the city limits has clearly been obscured by the presence of the airfield and a more recent road linking the city with the airfield and the State Highway Department garage. Another road (Fig. 5) has apparently suffered a similar fate along its northern extension between Building 19 (NCO Quarters) and Building 15 (Wagon Shed), although its southern extension to C Street is heavily overgrown but partially defined by a berm which may mark the line of a fence that once paralleled part of the road. It appears then that portions of the remainder of the core area roads can still be delineated in spite of varying degrees of vegetative growth which do not completely obscure former road cuts. However, it is clear that other historic, but more recent construction, i.e., the airfield, has obscured some of the formerly major thoroughfares of the core area, while intense vegetative growth has disguised portions of others.

Two additional roads were found in the core area. These were not present on original maps of the fort but probably were used by the military. One extended between the road to Mission Creek at the Gymnasium (Building 36)



Fig. 34. Remains of boardwalk--1977.

past the Signal Corps' Quarters (Building 32) to the New Hospital (Building 34). The other extended from the road to Mission Creek near the Barracks (Building 21) to the Commanding Officer's Quarters (Building 1). Both roads appear similar to other roadways and were indicated by an obvious roadcut in the woods with varying degrees of overgrowth.

Group B consists of the remains of core area walkways which included boardwalks and gravel walks (Fig. 5). Among the boardwalks which once linked the major areas of the fort, only the decayed remains of one are still visible. Portions of this boardwalk which extended between the Old Hospital (Building 20) and the New Hospital (Building 34) were observed on and just in the ground surface (Fig. 34). The southern extension of this walkway to the Quartermaster's Storehouse (Building 11) is no longer visible and probably was removed during construction of the airfield. No evidence was found for the boardwalks which linked the New Post Exchange (Building 30) with the Officer's Quarters nor the boardwalk along the "Officer's Row" (Fig. 35). These walks may also have been removed or disguised and decayed by natural processes.

None of the three gravel walks (Fig. 36) was visible on the ground surface. These walkways originally linked the Enlisted Men's Barracks (Building 21) with the Commissary (Building 8) and provided access between the Officer's Quarters row and Post Headquarters (Building 6) and the

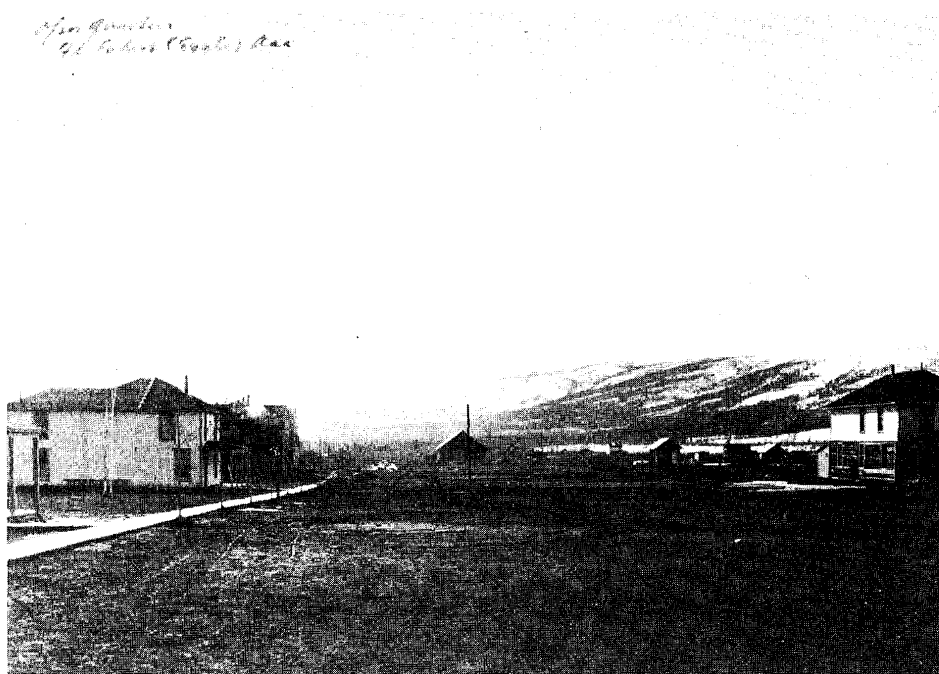


Fig. 35. Boardwalk along "Officer's Row" at Fort Egbert, early twentieth century (C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon Archives).



Fig. 36. Walkways near "Officer's Row" at Fort Egbert, winter 1905-1906 (C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon Archives).

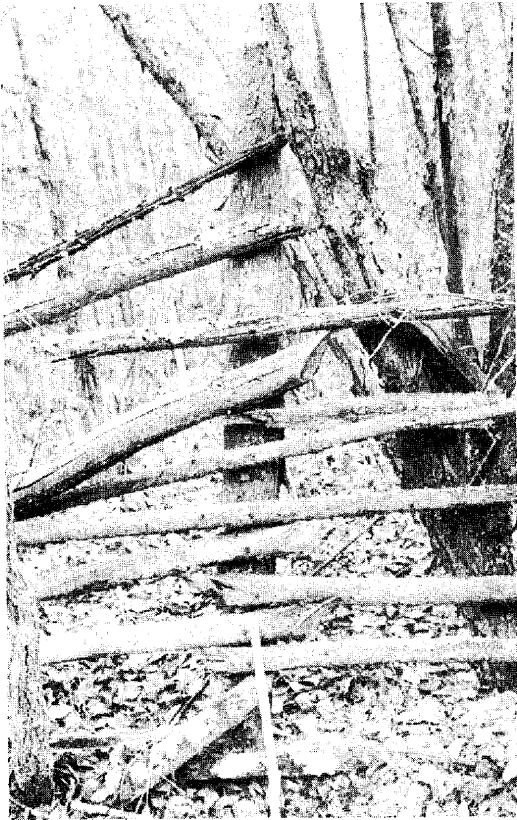


Fig. 37. Pole fence remains
--1977.

Quartermaster's Storehouse (Building 11). These two routes also delineated the Parade Ground along the west and south margins. The third gravel walk linked the main entrance to the fort at the Guardhouse (Building 33) with the central area at the Parade Ground. Construction and use of the airfield and associated roads have obscured these gravel footpaths.

Group C includes the remains of fences (Fig. 5). On a 1912 map of the fort three types of fences are noted--pole, wire, and picket. These fences seem to have served a variety of functions. The pole fence on the 1912 map outlines an area recorded as the Post Garden on a 1904 and a 1906 map; the wire fence which replaced the earlier slab fence enclosed the corral area and the buildings within; and the picket fence along the south limit of the core area clearly defined the boundary between the city of Eagle and the garrison.

A 10-foot linear expanse of the pole fence (Fig. 37) is the only surface representation of any of the major fences once on the fort (detailed drawings are in Appendix

III). The western and southern extents of the pole fence are marked by a narrow foot trail and a berm along the west, while a berm delineates the southern margin.

Subsurface evidence for the corral fence was found during the archeological excavations at the Quartermaster's Stables.

Along C Street between Fourth and Fifth Avenues, another berm is present and may indicate the route of the picket fence. Nevertheless, as noted earlier, C Street is well defined and although no surface evidence remains, original maps indicate the picket fence ran parallel with C Street. Portions of picket fences once present at the sites of Building 20 (Old Hospital, Laundry) and Building 1 (Commanding Officer's Quarters) (Figs. 28 and 11 and Appendix III) were found. Although these may have resembled the picket fence along the city limits, no material evidence was found of this fence.

As noted earlier, a deposit of narrow timbers with their ends modified was found south of Building 14 (Quartermaster's Stables). They are similar to timbers used in constructing the pole fence. Additionally, a large deposit of crumpled wire was found west of Building 14. The wire may have been removed from the corral fence, the remainder of which was no doubt salvaged.

Because of a tendency, if not a tradition, among residents in and near Alaskan towns and villages to reuse construction materials, it is probable that Fort Egbert fences or the wood in them was recycled. This may explain the lack of fence remains.

Group D includes gates which were present in the core area. Only Peek's map indicated the presence of a "Main Gate" southeast of the Guardhouse (Building 33) at the junction of Third Avenue and C Street. It is unclear, however, whether Peek's designation referred to an actual gate; perhaps it only represented the official entryway to the core area of Fort Egbert. In either event, no surface evidence of any type of gate or gateway remains was found in this area. One gate (Fig. 38) was found south of the road that extended between Buildings 14 and 15 (a drawing is in Appendix III). This gate was found embedded in the ground surface, and a superficial clearing of loose leaves revealed that it was intact although rather decayed. Its



Fig. 38. Corral gate in the ground surface near the site of Building 15--1977.

proximity to the corral at a point between the Quartermaster's Stables (Building 14) and the Wagon Shed (Building 15) led us to believe that this represented at least one gate to the corral. A panoramic photograph of Fort Egbert in the Eagle Museum shows this same gate in its original setting nearly 70 years ago.

It is likely that other gates were present in the core area, perhaps at the corral, the dog kennels, and within and at the small enclosures made by the picket fences found at two of the building sites; however, no evidence of these was found.

Group E encompasses those remains related to supplying water to the fort. Historic correspondence notes that water for the fort was initially drawn from a well near the Sawmill (Building 23) and stored in a tank on the terrace above, as noted on Fitzpatrick's 1901 and Kelly's 1904 map. No conclusive surface evidence for either of these significant areas was found. Water was delivered from the tank to users in barrels transported by wagon in the summer or by sled in the winter (Fig. 39).

During 1905 the fort began to get its water from a spring near American Creek and this water was stored in a tank on the hill above the creek (Fig. 5). As noted in Appendix III, the structural material remains of a water tank at the bottom of the hill (Fig. 40), and probably of



The water works. Fort Egbert.

Fig. 39. "The Water Works--Fort Egbert," ca. 1901
(C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of Alaska
Archives).



Fig. 40. Redwood tank remains near American Creek--1977.

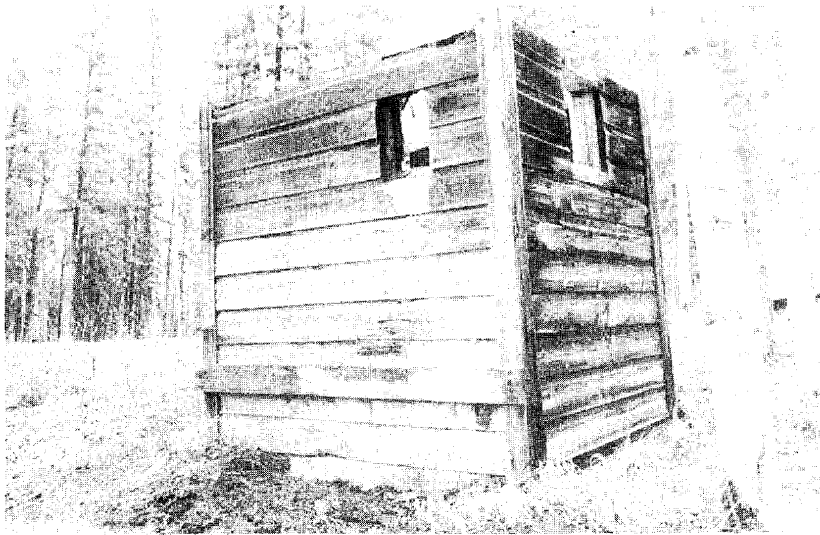


Fig. 41. Water warming house for water line--1977.

another on top of the hill were found, but not where fort maps indicate.

From these tanks water was pumped through 3-inch lead pipes which terminated at the corral. According to historic documents, the water pipes were encased in 14-inch square wooden boxes and six warming houses with oil stoves were built along the waterline to keep the water from freezing. Here, the historic record coincides with the survey findings, as all six warming houses (Fig. 41) in various states of disrepair were located along the route. Also, evidence of the wooden encasements for the pipe were present in the ground surface along most of the western half of the route. Lead pipe (Fig. 42) was found near the northwest corner of the corral area, although the exact terminus of the waterline could not be determined. About two-thirds of the way along the route from the source, another tank, possibly an overflow tank, was located. This tank was not mentioned in the documents relating to the construction and operation of this waterline. A later map of the fort (1912) did locate an overflow tank. It was placed much farther west, however, than the site of the one recorded during our survey. Most of the route and the locations of the structures associated with the operation of the waterline are still apparent, admittedly not always well-defined, and have probably been better preserved than other activity areas because of their relative remoteness. Only the natural processes of vegetative growth and the

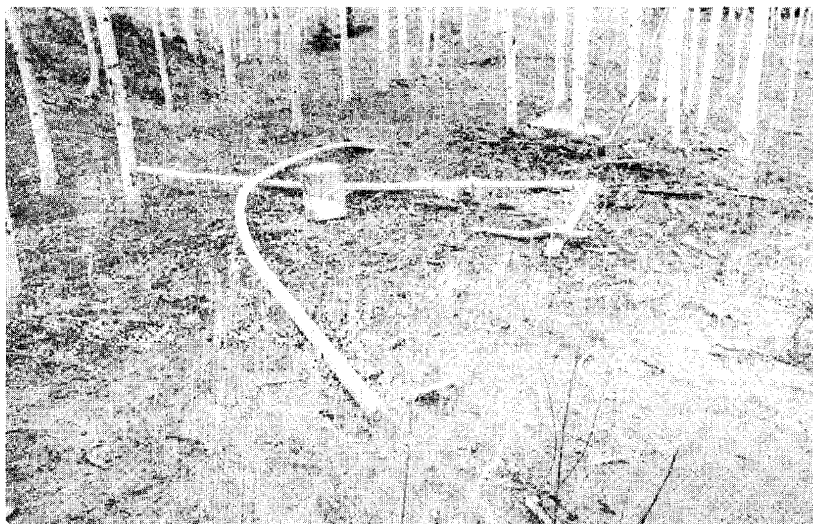


Fig. 42. Lead pipe probably for water line at Fort Egbert--1977.

construction of the campground at the western terminus of the waterline appear to have disguised portions of the line.

Group E includes another significant activity area found in the core area--the cemetery (Fig. 5). It (Fig. 43) was initially established by the city of Eagle in 1898, but was taken over by the military the following year. During the operation of the fort from 1899 to 1911, seven Fort Egbert soldiers died and were buried in the cemetery.

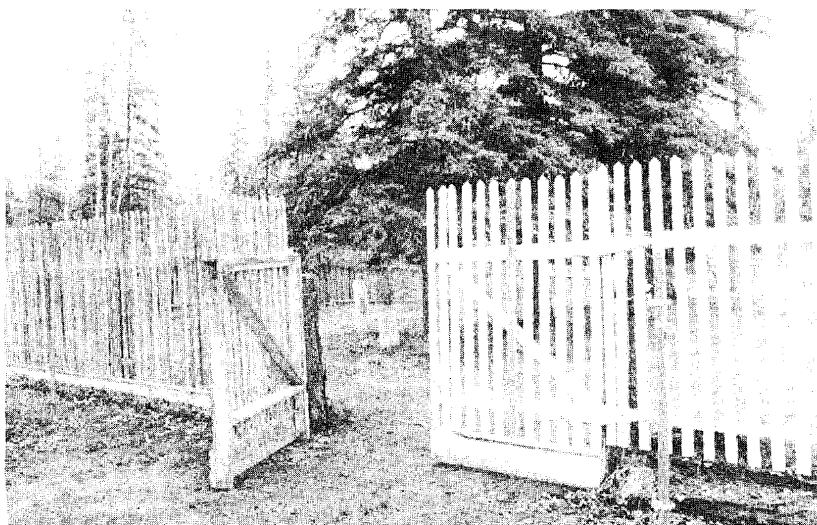


Fig. 43. North entrance of cemetery--1977.

The cemetery was originally divided into two halves (north and south) separated by a fence--one for deceased Catholics and the other for those belonging to other denominations. Additionally, the eastern portion of both halves was reserved for the burial of soldiers. The cemetery and surrounding picket fence are in good condition. No dividing fence between the northern and southern halves was visible nor were the graves of the deceased military men which were marked with headstones. With the abandonment of the fort the deceased soldiers were possibly disinterred. Structural debris found near the southeast corner and outside of the cemetery may be remnants of the disinterred coffins. The military records show that headstones were provided for deceased civilians and these are still present today. Dates of deaths and names still visible on many of the grave markers of the some 75 burials reveal that nonmilitary persons were buried in the cemetery between 1901 and 1973. Several graves bear the family names of current residents of Eagle, while others show that some persons who figure prominently in the historic tales of the area also were buried there. The cemetery, then, represents perhaps the only locality in the core area which has been subject to continual use from before the fort was established into the present decade.

Group G refers to three additional core area building sites (Fig. 5) which do not appear in the historic record. Adjacent to the building sites of both the Old Hospital (Building 20) and the New Hospital (Building 34) were found some structural remains of rectangular buildings, each measuring about 12 feet by 18 feet. The decayed wood remains in the ground surface may be from floors. At the bottom of the bank below the site of the Signal Corps' Quarters (Building 32) remains of a log structure were found. Only the three basal logs from the walls were evident, in addition to a variety of debris apparently deposited at the site by the occupants of the Signal Corps building. It cannot be determined conclusively whether or not any or all of these building remains were related to the occupation of the fort during its 12-year existence. In spite of the similarity of site and location of the remains near the former hospital sites, it is possible that they were among existing structures purchased by the military in 1899 (Quartermaster General 1899b). It is probable that the cabin once located below Building 32 also was a military purchase.



Fig. 44. Flagpole platform for south flagstaff--1977.

The sites of flagpoles are included in Group H. One cement platform (Fig. 44) was located in the core area south of the former Parade Ground and north of the Guardhouse (Building 33). This exact location was noted on Peek's map of the fort dating to the later period of the garrison's occupation (Peek n.d.). The site of the flagpole about 200 feet farther north and within the limits of the parade ground could not be located. This northern flagstaff is shown in the same location on several of the original maps of the fort, e.g., Fitzpatrick's 1901 map, Kelly's 1904 map. This location is further confirmed by a photograph taken by historian-traveler C. L. Andrews when the fort was occupied (Fig. 45). The earlier flagpole apparently did not have a concrete platform surrounding it. We repeatedly checked the area for the site of the flagpole with negative results. This area appears not to have been disturbed except by natural changes. No sign of a posthole was found. There is no information in the historic record as to whether the site of the southern flagstaff ever replaced the more northern one or even if they were ever used simultaneously or alternately during the same time.

An existing flagpole was observed several hundred feet farther west near the site of Building 11 (Quartermaster's Storehouse). It is uncertain whether this flagpole which is in excellent condition and possibly preserved with creosote was associated with military operations. This flagpole may have been erected by the Alaska Road



Fig. 45. North flagpole and Parade Ground, Fort Egbert, early twentieth century (C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon Archives).

Commission which occupied several of the existing structures after the fort was abandoned until 1975.

The remains of a stone-lined ditch which is included in Group I were found east of the site of Building 11 (Quartermaster's Storehouse). This 4-1/2-foot-wide ditch extends for nearly 100 feet (Fig. 46). Portions of the ditch have been obliterated by recent fill activity near the site. It is unclear what its function may have been. It may have been a drainage ditch but it crosses a very low slope and because no remains are at the site of Building 11, the original grade around the structure is hard to determine.

Group J consists of the Target Range, which was located several hundred yards west of the New Hospital (Building 34) site and extended some 600 yards toward American Creek (Fig. 5). Only one section, about one-sixth the size of the original range according to fort maps, was found (Fig. 47). When trees were cleared from the area, the sand beneath the humus level provided a natural base for the Target Range. It is difficult to explain why this apparently once extensive area has been so intensely



Fig. 46. Stone-lined ditch
near Building 11--1977.



Fig. 47. Target
Range--1977.

overgrown with birch, aspen, and spruce except in one comparatively small area.

The Post Garden is included in Group K and also is overgrown with birch, aspen, and spruce within its original limits (Fig. 5). The garden is first noted on a 1904 map and later on a 1906 map, although the historic record is unclear as to whether the garden only functioned for these few growing seasons. No mention was found in the quartermaster's records regarding the types of foods grown, but a 1909 correspondence reminded officials at Fort Egbert that, on the basis of an 1892 government order, money was not to be appropriated for post gardens (Clayton 1909). Local oral reports during our field work indicated that the military purchased garden produce from Lundeen's farm across the river (see Field Survey #64; Appendix IV), but when the military made those purchases is unclear. Nevertheless, it is clear that Fort Egbert personnel attempted to supplement their diets with fresh produce grown locally much as they did with fresh meat because of the difficulty and expense in having these foods imported from outside the territory.

The two woodyards (Fig. 5) included in Group L were wood storage areas at different times at Fort Egbert. A 1901 map shows that one was located between the Barracks (Building 21) and the Quartermaster's Warehouse (Building 12) at the end of a "Wood Road" that extended toward Mission Creek (Fitzpatrick 1901). By 1904, the woodyard was relocated closer to the Sawmill (Building 23) on the terrace above it (Kelly 1904). One might expect that it would have been best to locate the woodyard close to the Sawmill, unless only cordwood was stored at the first location, which was more central to the buildings, all of which relied on wood for heat. No remains were found at either locality and both were disturbed during the construction of the airfield in the 1930's.

Group M included two small pits the size of wooden crates located near the site of the first water tank. One, in fact, was lined with milled wood and may have consisted simply of a wooden crate placed in the ground. These pits may have been used for food storage at some time but it is unclear during what time period. Small pits were observed throughout the survey, but none as small nor as distinct as these.

Group N consists of refuse areas (dumps) within the core area (Fig. 5). The dumping area for the fort

apparently extended about 1,200 feet along the bank near the north limit of the fort. Trash was observed to have been deposited over the bank along its full length. It was unclear, however, whether the deposits along the eastern 600 feet were dumped by the military or residents of the city of Eagle who also were reported to have used the dump. Part of this eastern portion of the dump now is used by modern residents of Eagle and also is a popular place for collecting and salvaging reusable items. Farther west, near the site of Building 3 (Officer's Quarters), it is clear that the items deposited are directly related to activities at the fort and probably later and nonmilitary occupants of the building. Several articles in fact were stamped "Fort Egbert" (Fig. 22). Other refuse observed in this dumping area included a variety of food containers (crates for apricots, corned beef, and evaporated milk), a ham can and a lard can, items related to heating and cooking (a stove top, stove pipe, and cooking stove), and other assorted objects including five-gallon cans modified for use as pails, a wine bottle, a wax bottle, a crate for varnish, and several large batteries. Similarly, near the site of Building 1 (Commanding Officer's Quarters) extensive remains associated with activities at that structure were found in the dump directly over the bank from the site. Some of the items inventoried included large wood-burning heating stoves, numerous five-gallon cans (possibly for kerosene), kitchen utensils, and assorted food containers.

Category 7. Prehistoric Sites in the Core Area. Six prehistoric localities (Fig. 5) were found in the core Fort Egbert area (Appendix III). Four of these consisted of flake scatters and one contained a finished tool. As a group, artifacts which were observed on the ground surface included a unifacially retouched boulder spall, two possible core fragments, two retouched flakes, a probable core tablet, fire-cracked rocks, a fragment of retouched glass, and a unifacially flaked end and side "thumbnail" scraper. As elsewhere in the survey area, no test excavations were undertaken to determine if more prehistoric materials might be found beneath the surface. These four localities are all within 250 yards of each other. Two are near the current heliport, near where the Double Set Officers' Quarters (Building 28) once stood (Fig. 48), and two are along the road at the north limit of the airfield near the Officer's Quarters (Building 3) remains.



Fig. 48. Prehistoric locality at current airfield and near site of Building 28--1977.

Each of the localities is situated above the volcanic ash horizon evident in the stratigraphy in this area. This volcanic ash was deposited during an ash fall which originated in the Saint Elias Mountains between A.D. 235 and A.D. 395 in the vicinity of the Klutlan Glacier, nearly 225 miles south of Eagle (Workman 1974). In localities within the central area of the airfield and along the adjacent roads, the top of this ash horizon has been uncovered during construction of the airfield, continued use, and winter snow removal. It seems likely, then, that the prehistoric materials were deposited sometime after the ash fall, but have only recently been exposed and probably do not lie far from the site of original deposit.

None of the prehistoric materials observed is diagnostic, although the volcanic ash horizon clearly indicates that the materials are probably dated to post-A.D. 400. If several of the pieces are fragments of cores, and one piece probably a core tablet, then evidence exists for a core and blade technology in the area. Such a technology extends to as recent as A.D. 1050 and A.D. 910 in interior Alaska at the Healy Lake and Lake Minchumina sites, about 120 and 375 miles west of Eagle, respectively (McKennan and Cook 1968; Holmes 1974). No associated features were observed near the Eagle localities that had already been disturbed by the presence of Fort Egbert and the construction, maintenance, and use of the airfield and adjacent roads.



Fig. 49. Prehistoric hearth in cut bank near site of Building 23--1977 (outlined).

Two additional prehistoric localities were found in the core area and were visible in the cut bank along the eastern and river limit of Fort Egbert (Fig. 49). One was visible in the relatively low cut bank near the site of the Sawmill (Building 23). It consisted of at least seven and possibly eight prehistoric hearths, seven of which were located within 100 linear feet of one another. Although our observations revealed the presence of ash, calcined bone, and fire-cracked rock in the exposed surface, test excavations undertaken by Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) interns for the BLM in 1976 uncovered historic material above one hearth and flakes, charcoal, and ceramic fragments in the hearth level (Waldman 1976). It is noteworthy that no volcanic ash horizon is visible in this lower cut bank. This area has been severely disturbed because of the presence of the fort sawmill, evidenced in the sawdust and wood debris in the sod level and just beneath, but it is also constantly eroding and is further disturbed by swallows (Fig. 49).

The sixth and final prehistoric locality found in the core area was first observed in the higher cut bank along the Yukon River and extended about 100 yards from the northern limit of the bank south to roughly the southern limit of the present airfield. Observations in 1951 by W. Irving (oral communication 1976) and in 1976 by Andrews and Sackett revealed lithic materials and calcined bone above the volcanic ash horizon which is visible along this

entire bank. Test excavations about 25 feet back from the edge of the bank by WICHE interns for the BLM in 1976 revealed a disturbed level between the ash horizon and the sod level which contained historic as well as nondiagnostic prehistoric materials (Waldman 1976). In 1977 no lithic material was observed in the cut bank, although flakes were observed about 100 feet from the edge of the bank in an area used for summer softball games by the local population.

Additional flake scatters were observed on the surface just about 100 feet from the south limit of the core area. It is also pertinent to note that prehistoric materials were recovered in an undisturbed context at excavations at the former U. S. Courthouse in Eagle only 300 feet south of the core area (Sackett 1977). The materials are thought to have been deposited after the volcanic ash fall. In 1976, further west in the core area, Andrews observed flakes on the road along the south limit of the airfield near the site of the Commissary (Building 8), and lithic material was recovered during excavations at the Quartermaster's Stables. Lithic material, including flakes and microblade fragments, was found outside the core area in 1976 by BLM archeologists along a road cut for the proposed access road to the campground (Waldman 1976).

It is evident that the site of Fort Egbert was used and occupied by prehistoric peoples. Significantly, all of the sites located in 1977 within the core area point to a post-volcanic ash fall occupation (ca. A. D. 400). Three areas which were test excavated in 1976 reveal that in two instances the prehistoric component apparently has been disturbed and mixed with the historic component, probably during the military occupation at Fort Egbert. In the third test area, prehistoric materials were found in the same level as non-native ceramic fragments. These may point to the beginning of native and non-native contact during the last century. Thus, in two areas only several hundred feet apart, there is evidence of prehistoric occupation and/or use of the area sometime between A.D. 400 and the mid-nineteenth century.

In addition, native oral accounts include reports of past use of these two areas by their ancestors, also Han Indians, on the banks overlooking the Yukon River above Mission Creek. Several residents specifically recall that their ancestors camped near the mouth of Mission Creek at the site where the Fort Egbert sawmill was later located.

This information was reported to Andrews in 1976. She subsequently observed the hearths in the cut bank and later recorded them during the 1977 field survey. People who camped at this site are said to have camped later at a site about one mile upriver called Nibaeael Zhoo ("place of skin houses"). As noted earlier, two houses were excavated at that site in 1976 and these have been preliminarily dated at about 1880-1890 (Andrews 1977).

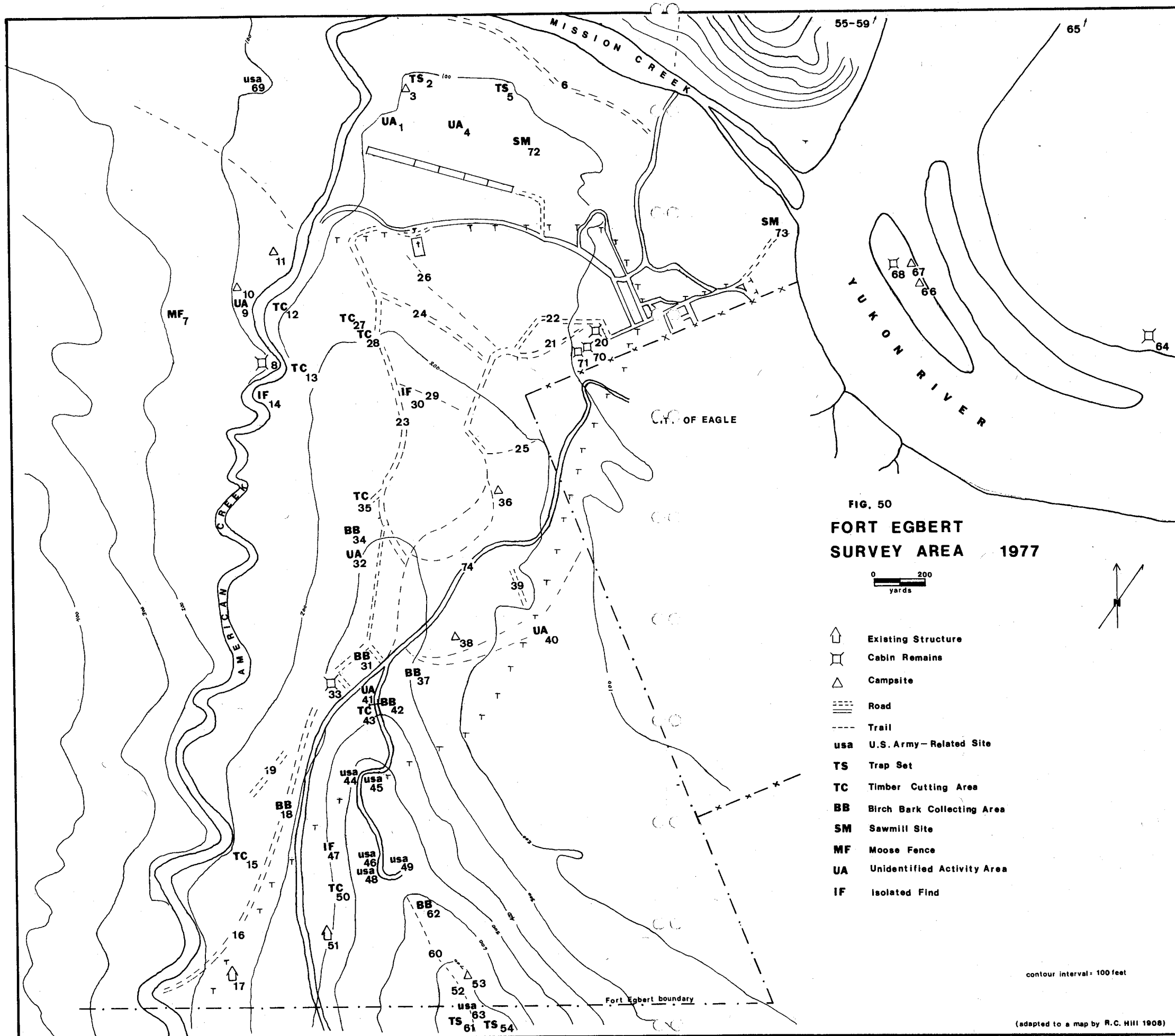
Another site where Han Indians occupied skin houses was reported by a native of Eagle Village to Captain Schmitter of Fort Egbert in 1906-1907. This village was located about one mile up Mission Creek near the mouth of American Creek, but was abandoned by the few people who survived a small pox epidemic which ravaged their camp in the mid-nineteenth century (Schmitter 1910:17). This site could not be located during our survey. Oral information about a Han occupation on the higher bank of the Yukon River is less clear, although native residents refer to the area between the city and Eagle Bluff by the same term, Ts'ə'autlin ("where the water hits the point coming down"), which is also applied to Eagle Bluff. Native residents have also observed prehistoric material coming out of the bank during the twentieth century.

On the basis of current archeological and ethnographic information, it is difficult to determine whether the higher and lower banks of the Yukon River were ever occupied simultaneously, along with the village reported to have been at the mouth of American Creek. We do not know the relative ages of these sites or if they represent seasonal camps of the same population, or separate occupations by different or related populations. The presence of lithic materials within much of the core area, albeit primarily surface scatters, and their occurrence just beyond the fort within the city are evidence of prehistoric use of the area. It remains unclear whether these finds indicate extensive utilization of the area at some time or whether they represent occupation and/or use at several different times or even continual use throughout time. None of the material observed thus far appears to be from a pre-ash fall context, although further investigations could reveal such materials in this area.

Sites Beyond the Fort Egbert Core Area

Seventy-one sites containing signs of human activity were located within the Eagle Historic District outside of the Fort Egbert core area and the city of Eagle townsite (Figs. 50, 51, 52; Appendix IV). Several sites are known to have been directly related to the occupation of the fort during the early twentieth century. Of these, most were associated with the occupation and operation of the Wireless Station and roads within the military reservation. In addition, near the core area of the fort, timber cutting areas, cabin remains, and roads, along with associated debris and artifacts such as sawhorses and food and tobacco containers, were found. In the more outlying areas, a wide variety of sites was recorded. A mining claim, which was noted on an original map of the fort, was found and included several features indicative of outbuildings in addition to the remains of a cabin. Several campsites were located, some of which contained no structural remains and were probably used in the early twentieth century. Others consisted of lean-tos, which had been used as recently as the 1976-77 season. One was occupied at the time of the survey. A number of sites revealing a variety of activities rather than shelter were also found. Sites clearly associated with traditional activities of Han Indians included the remains of a moose fence, birch bark collecting areas, and native allotment sites. Wood-hauling roads, trapline trails, trap sets, and two sawmill sites point to other uses of the area during the twentieth century. Still other sites were simply dispersed trash areas, some of which contained materials from the early twentieth century or were the sites of stacks of wood.

Six categories have been constructed for the total of 71 sites found in the survey area beyond the Fort Egbert core area (Table 3). These categories are related to shelter (campsites, cabin remains, and existing structures), the acquisition of natural resources (a moose fence, birch bark collecting and wood-cutting areas, and trap sets), the undertaking of U. S. Army operations (excluding roads and trails), the processing of natural resources (sawmills), transportation routes (roads and trails), and miscellaneous activities (isolated artifact finds and unidentifiable activity areas). Data sheets describing each individual site, designated by a field survey (F.S.) number, are included in Appendix IV, while summary results and analysis for each category are presented below.



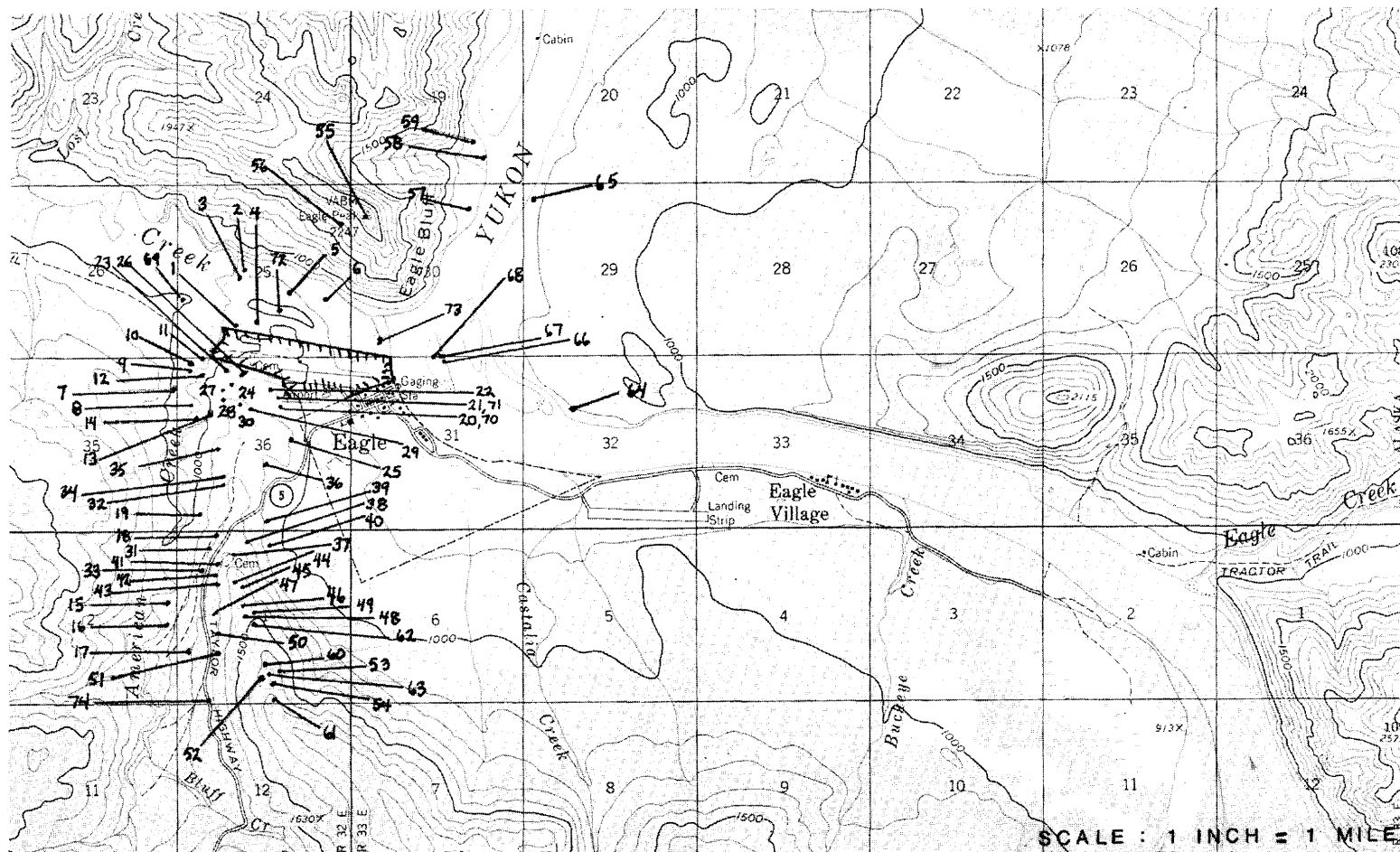


Fig. 51. Location of sites within the Fort Egbert survey area--1977.

TABLE 3. TYPES OF SITES RECORDED DURING 1977
SURVEY BEYOND THE CORE OF FORT EGBERT.

<u>Site Activity Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent of Total Sites Located</u>
<u>Shelter</u>		
Campsites	8	11.0
Cabin remains	7	10.0
Existing structures	<u>2</u>	<u>3.0</u>
Total	17	24.0
<u>Acquisition of Natural Resources</u>		
Moose fence	1	1.5
Birch bark collecting areas	6	8.5
Woodcutting areas	8	11.0
Trap sets	<u>5</u>	<u>7.0</u>
Total	20	28.0
<u>U.S. Army Activities (excluding roads and trails)</u>		
Habitations and/or operations	2	3.0
Dump areas	3	4.0
Long-range targets	1	1.5
Boundary marker	<u>1</u>	<u>1.5</u>
Total	7	10.0
<u>Processing of Natural Resources</u>		
Sawmills	<u>2</u>	<u>3.0</u>
Total	2	3.0
<u>Transportation Routes</u>		
Roads	9	12.5
Trails	<u>5</u>	<u>7.0</u>
Total	14	19.5
<u>Miscellaneous Activities</u>		
Isolated finds	6	8.5
Unidentifiable activity areas	<u>5</u>	<u>7.0</u>
Total	11	15.5
GRAND TOTAL	71	100.0



Fig. 52. Survey area viewed from Eagle Peak--1977.

Shelter. Seventeen sites related to shelter ranged from temporary shelters to permanent structures and from occupation during the first decade of the twentieth century to the summer of 1977. Nearly one-half (7) of these shelter-related sites were campsites, while about the same number (8) represent the remains of abandoned cabins. Two were existing structures.

Among the eight campsites, four were lean-tos (F.S. #11, 36, 38, 53). Three revealed evidence of use during 1976-1977. All were constructed of spruce timbers and/or boughs and two also had the ubiquitous synthetic material of Alaska--polyethylene sheeting (Fig. 53). Another campsite (F.S. #3) consisted of spruce tent frame poles for supporting a canvas wall tent. It was located in an excellent game lookout area (Fig. 54). Material debris included caribou antlers, along with cans of foods, beverages, and tobacco as well as a boot. A woodcutting area was located nearby, evidenced by tree stumps and a sawhorse. A possible campsite (F.S. #10), also located near a timber-cutting area, consisted of material debris including a Yukon-type wood-burning stove and stove pipe, although no structural remains were found on the ground surface. Two additional, but currently used, campsites (F.S. #66, 67) were located on Belle Isle across from the city of Eagle and were marked by tents or tent areas, shelves nailed

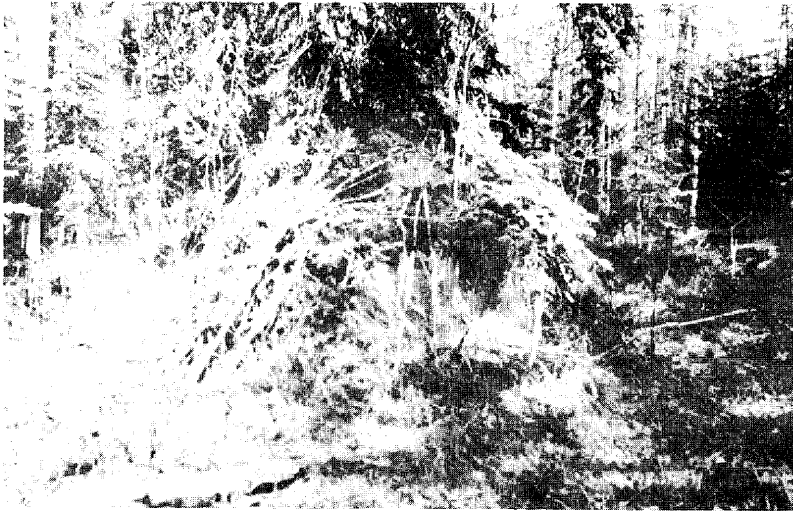


Fig. 53. Lean-to shelter near American Creek.

between trees, a clothesline, and dog chains attached to tree trunks.

These sites are similar in that most of them show contemporary and temporary use and are located in predominantly spruce environs. They differ in general settings, which included situation at the edge of a high bank overlooking two valleys, near a pond, atop a ridge of moderate relief, on the lower limits of a ridge, and on an island in the Yukon River. Except for the two campsites on the island, the sites appear to be in settings which are strategic for the acquisition of adjacent resources such as game, timber, and/or fur-bearing animals. The cultural



Fig. 54. Abandoned campsite.

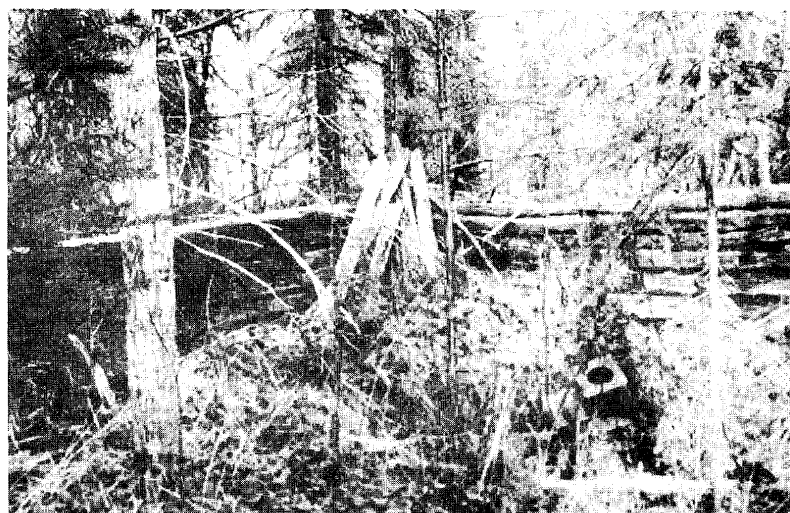


Fig. 55. Cabin remains at O. H. Walters' abandoned mining claim.

affiliation of the occupants of any of the campsites could not be determined with any certainty.

Seven remains of cabins were located and were found to be in various states of disrepair. Remains ranged from intact walls on all four sides to no structural debris present on the ground surface. The remains of one cabin (F.S. #8) (Fig. 55) was once part of a mining claim which was noted on a 1906 map of Fort Egbert (Forsyth 1907). The site today consists of the cabin remains, as well as features indicating either associated outbuildings or cold-storage cellars along with scattered debris such as wash tubs and five-gallon cans which may originally have contained kerosene. Three cabin sites (F.S. #20, 70, 71) were located near the core area of the fort, west of the corral area. Portions of the walls remained at one locality along with several unidentifiable but probably associated pits. Material debris such as a wooden crate, cans, and a barrel were also found in the area. The other two cabins consisted only of floor remains embedded in the ground surface, although a few items such as a Yukon-type wood-burning stove and an enamelware wash basin were found. One of the cabin sites has been almost completely removed in the construction of the adjacent road. Elsewhere in the vicinity of Fort Egbert, along the Taylor Highway, a depression (F.S. #33), which probably indicates the site of a cabin, was also located. No material or structural

debris was found at this locality. Opposite Fort Egbert, on Belle Isle, a very small cabin (F.S. #68) which had fallen in was found. Early twentieth century debris such as five-gallon cans, stove pipe, and a tea can were found in association with the fallen remains. Another cabin site (F.S. #57), probably more recent, included all four walls, two bed frames, and a table. Like the cabin remains west of the corral, several pits and a probable log ground cache were found associated with this cabin.

All except one of the cabin sites revealed structural debris. None possessed a roof or the presence of roof fall. Three cabins were located along waterways and three just beyond the Fort Egbert core area. Almost all were in a mixed spruce-hardwood forest. For only one of these sites can a time period or cultural affiliation be assigned with any certainty--the mining claim of O. H. Walters noted on a 1906 map of Fort Egbert. No oral accounts regarding this individual have been reported during recent oral history projects undertaken in the area, although at least three other miners are known to have mined on American Creek during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Haynes 1976). Some of the cabins near Fort Egbert may have been occupied by prospectors or trappers or other individuals prior to the establishment of Fort Egbert but these cabins may have later been purchased or taken over by the military as indicated in one correspondence of 1899 (Quartermaster General 1899b). They also may have been occupied after Fort Egbert was abandoned, however. Similarly, it is difficult to determine the age or cultural affiliation of the cabin sites on Belle Isle and below Mission Creek or even the types of activities the occupants were engaged in. None of the cabin remains appear to be associated with the contemporary period.

Southwest of the Fort Egbert core area and near the southern boundary of the former military reservation two existing structures (F.S. #17, 51) were found. Both constitute, in part, native allotment sites of local residents. One site, located east of American Creek, included a small cabin as well as associated materials including a platform cache, a sawhorse, and two Yukon-type wood-burning stoves. The cabin belongs to an elderly native man who is well-known for his extensive trapping experience and knowledge and who presently resides in Eagle Village. The second structure appeared more like a "fair-weather" shelter. It is constructed of a frame of spruce timbers covered with brush. The only associated materials found were an

unidentifiable birch structure and some cut birch logs within the A-frame-styled shelter. This structure also belongs to a native man, a resident of Eagle Village.

Acquisition of Natural Resources. In the survey of the area beyond the core area of Fort Egbert, 20 sites were located that had been used by persons acquiring natural resources. Most of the sites were west and southwest of the core area. They revealed four types of specific activities which included taking of large game (a moose fence), the collecting or stripping of birch bark, woodcutting, and trap setting.

One moose fence (F.S. #7), west of American Creek at the edge of a muskeg area along a moose trail, represents a traditional method employed by Han Indians to acquire moose. The remains of the pole fence, which was probably much more extensive, revealed that it was constructed with narrow spruce timbers (Fig. 56). Wire nails were used in constructing some parts of the fence. One native man described similar fences used by the neighboring Upper Tanana Indians. These fences were extended between two hills where a small creek flowed. Snares were placed in the fence at intervals and covered with willow branches so that when a moose passed through the opening its head would be caught in the snare (Paul 1957:14-15). These fences were also used by neighboring Athapaskan Indians as well (McKenna 1959).

Also associated with traditional and current native activities were six areas where birch bark had been stripped from trees (Fig. 57). Each of these areas (F.S. #18, 31, 34, 37, 42, 62) appeared to be used solely for collecting birch bark. Several other localities where one or two birch trees had been stripped were also found. Since these trees were associated with other types of sites within and outside of the core area, they were not included in our tabulations of an activity area primarily representing the collection of birch bark. Birch bark which had been peeled from trees varied in width from about eight inches to one strip six feet wide. The trees were at least eight inches in diameter and usually larger. Some bark collecting areas were located in an open stand of birch within a more generally mixed spruce-hardwood forest. Others were in stands of mixed spruce and birch. Two areas had clearly been used recently, and one area appeared much older since new but coarse bark had begun to form. In the other instances and, in general, it is difficult for

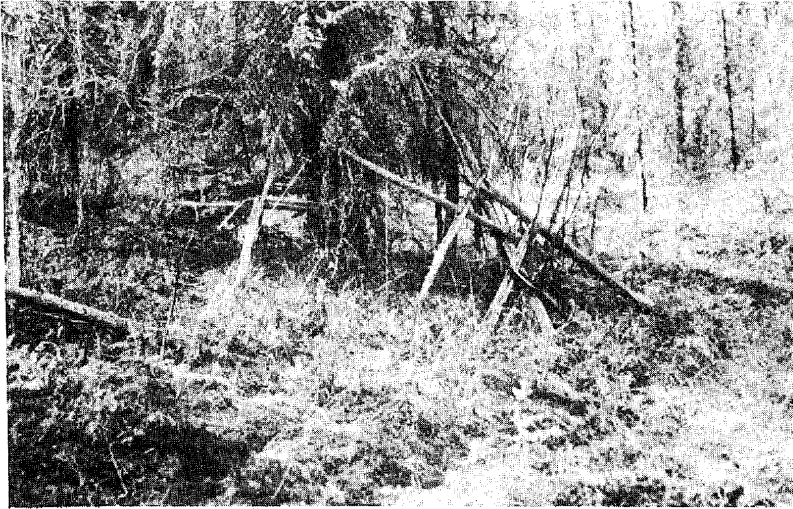


Fig. 56. Moose fence remains near American Creek.

the untrained person to determine the approximate time that has lapsed since bark was peeled. All of the birch bark collecting areas are located along the upper portions of a north-south trending ridge which lies between American Creek and the Yukon River. Additionally, most are within 200 yards of abandoned, but once significant, roads found along the ridge roughly between the site of the water tank (Building 40) and the Wireless Station (F.S. #49). Prior to our survey of this area, a native woman in Eagle Village, well-known for her manufacture of birch bark containers, noted localities on "Signal Tower Hill" or "Telegraph Hill," as it is locally called, as being good locales for birch bark. The traditional and current use of birch bark by



Fig. 57. Birch bark collecting area.



Fig. 58. Timber cutting area.

local native people for the manufacture of a variety of containers and shelter coverings was noted earlier.

Spruce bark was also used traditionally. No spruce trees with their bark peeled were observed during the survey. Native residents reported, however, that a popular locality for peeling spruce bark was located about four miles upriver from the survey area just below Eagle Creek (Caulfield 1977:19). Birch collecting areas were also reported further upriver.

Eight localities were found which were used for cutting wood (Fig. 58). Most frequent evidence of these areas was presence of cut tree stumps, often associated with stacks of logs, rusted cans, sawhorses, and barrels. In two areas (F.S. #43, 50) logs appeared to have been stacked recently. These two areas are located closest to the Taylor Highway, a major and currently used thoroughfare. The remainder of the timber cutting areas (F.S. #12, 13, 15, 27, 28, 35) are located between American Creek and an abandoned road which extended along a north-south trending ridge west of Fort Egbert and Eagle. Other cutting areas were found associated with sites described in other categories. In four of these areas, which are all fairly extensive--covering about one acre--material debris observed could have been associated with woodcutting. For example, some cut timber which had been worked on the ends, a variety of food and tobacco cans, a piece of stove pipe, a pair of boots, a sawhorse, and barrels were found at these sites. Another woodcutting locality also revealed a five-foot-deep hole more than 11 feet square but no

material or structural debris. Still another area possessed only a sawhorse and a stack of moss-covered logs among the axe-cut tree stumps.

In almost all of these woodcutting localities most trees cut for either firewood or building were spruce. All localities are or were fairly accessible by two of the cross-country routes in the area. Several areas also may have been campsites, evidenced by the presence of a stove pipe at one and a variety of food and tobacco containers at another. It is difficult to ascertain the time period when these areas were utilized, except for the obviously recent one. Some areas may have been used by persons who contracted to supply wood to Fort Egbert since most are situated near a major thoroughfare noted on an early map of the fort (Hill 1908). However, it is also likely that the road used by the military continued to be used by the local population, which still depends on wood for heat. Many people have also relied on local sources of logs for the construction of homes and caches and other outbuildings, and some of these wood cutting areas may have been associated with such activities.

Five sites where traps had been set were found in the survey area. Three of these still contained a metal trap in the set. Two trap sets (F.S. #2, 5) were located about 200 yards from one another near the edge of a 70-foot-high bank terrace, overlooking the valley at the junction of American and Mission creeks. Both appeared to be pole sets for the trapping of marten and were constructed of spruce timbers attached to the trunk of a large spruce tree (Fig. 59). Similar sets have been described for the trapping of marten in neighboring regions (Nelson 1973). Dried salmon was used for bait, although only the fish skin remained hanging above each trap. A No. 1 trap was used at one set and a No. 0 trap at the other. Only the No. 1 trap had sprung, but nothing was caught in it. Both trap sets appeared to have been made by the same individual since the same imported materials (yarn and flagging tape) had been used to hold the bait and mark the trap set along the trail.

A third trap set (F.S. #59), constructed and marked in the same manner, was found farther along the left bank of the Yukon River, about a mile below the mouth of Mission Creek. A No. 1 trap had been set and a squirrel caught in it. All three trap sets appear to constitute part of one person's traplines and probably all were set in the 1976-1977 season. None had trapped a marten, although the bait had been taken by some animal.



Fig. 59. Marten trap set.

Two other trap sets (F.S. #54, 61) were found near the top of a 1,000-foot-high ridge southeast of the site of the abandoned Wireless Telegraph Station. One seemed to have been constructed like the marten pole sets, although the trap and bait had been removed. The pole set appeared as if it could be reused in the coming season. About 100 yards away along the same trail is the site of another trap set in disrepair. No trap or bait was present, although portions of the lower leg and foot bones of possibly a bear were found next to the site as were scattered bird feathers. It is difficult to determine what the original construction of the set was or the type of animal intended to be trapped.

Judging from the type of set constructed, the type of bait, and the hilly areas in which they were found, most of the trap sets appeared to be recent and intended for trapping marten. Metal traps remained in three of the sets, which probably had been set by the same person. It was clear that this individual had not succeeded in getting a marten, at least since the traps were last set and he had not returned at the end of the season to remove the traps.

Whoever had set traps in the area farther south, near the abandoned telegraph station, returned to the sets at the end of the season to remove the traps. It has been noted that modern Kutchin Indians of the Black River, roughly 125 miles north of Eagle, rarely use marten pole sets since marten "often pass them by" (Nelson 1973:222). The Black River Kutchin prefer the cubby set. Although it has not been documented which type of set Han Indians at Eagle Village preferred or used, we assumed that the marten pole sets were set by a non-native resident of Eagle because the sets were close to the town, whose residents are reported to trap in these environs (Caulfield 1977).

U. S. Army Activities. A total of seven sites (Appendix IV) located are directly related to the activities of the U. S. Army and U. S. Signal Corps during the early twentieth century. Roads and trails either constructed or used by the military are not included in these tabulations since they have been utilized by other populations as well. The seven sites range from the relatively extensive site of the Wireless Station on Telegraph Hill to a single and fallen sign which once alerted people traveling the Steele Creek trail to the south boundary of the Fort Egbert military reservation.

The main locus of military activity beyond the Fort Egbert core area was probably at the site of the Wireless Telegraph Station (F.S. #49), about one and one-half miles from the core area. Here, in 1908, the Wireless Station was built, complete with a steel-beamed tower and at least one large two-story structure, which probably served as operations headquarters and living quarters for the military personnel associated with the telegraph operations (Fig. 60). Today, only four concrete pads mark the site of the tower which was salvaged in the 1920's by the Alaska Consolidated Gold Corporation (Grauman n.d.:45). Three water-filled depressions and associated horizontal steel beams roughly mark the site of the operations building where a large kitchen range dominates the remains of the abandoned machinery about the site (Fig. 61). Otherwise, few structural and material remains are present at this site, an historical landmark in twentieth century Alaskan communication systems.

Across the road and only about 100 feet from the western limit of the telegraph station is a series of features probably associated with military activities on the hill (F.S. #48). Several fairly large depressions with

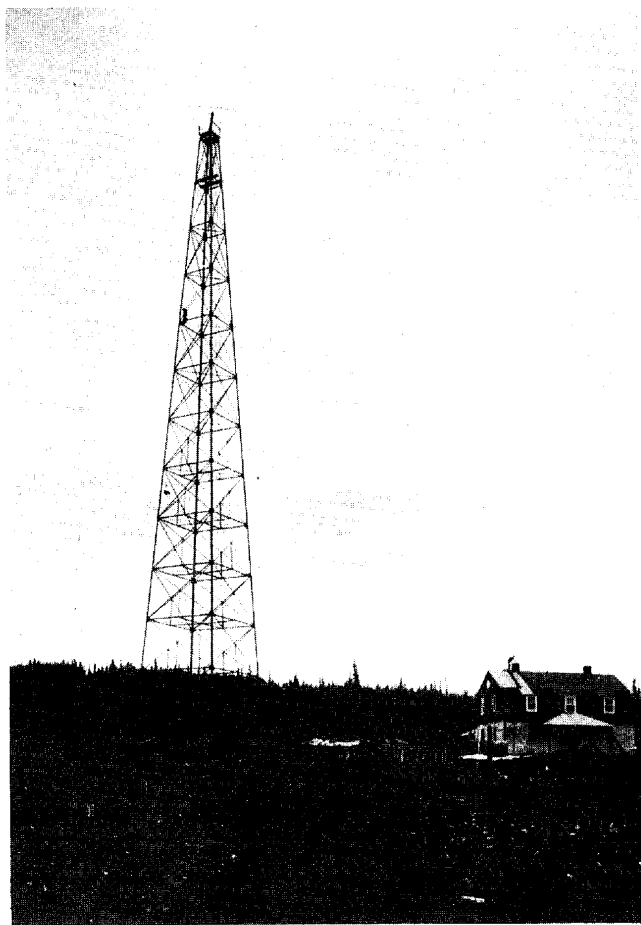


Fig. 60. Wireless Telegraph Station, ca. 1908
(C. L. Andrews Collection,
University of Oregon Archives).



Fig. 61. "Army Range" at site of
Wireless Telegraph Station.

some structural remains appear to mark the locations of buildings which were either occupied by military personnel or used as outbuildings in association with the nearby Wireless Station. Also, wire, electrical equipment, a bedpost, and cement pilings were found in this area.

The use of the Wireless Station (Fig. 60), occupied by the U. S. Army and later the U. S. Signal Corps until sometime into the 1920's, is clear although little material evidence is present at the site. The features found on the other side of the road may be indications of temporary dwellings and workshops that were once associated with the operations of the station.

Three other sites (F.S. #44, 45, 46) related to military activity beyond the core area were also found near the Wireless Station site. These were located on moderately steep slopes, just off the road to the station. Refuse materials found in each of these dumps included many of the same disposed materials found at the core area dumps associated with the occupation of this military outpost. The debris included such items as wooden crates, five-gallon cans, hole-in-top cans, metal plates, battery terminals, lead pipe, and tobacco cans. The similarity of materials found here with those found in the core area seems to substantiate the proposition that these dumps are related to activities at the Wireless Station. In addition, the practice of dumping trash over steep banks from an occupied building is the same as that observed in the Fort Egbert core area. It is also unlikely that the nonmilitary population would transport their debris to this remote locality when more accessible dumping areas were located adjacent to the city.

Only one site found in the survey area west of American Creek reflects the presence of the U. S. Army at Eagle. This was the site of the long-range targets (F.S. #69), labeled on original maps of the fort as "Collective fire targets" and "Long range target pit" and "Col. Fire Targets Long Range Targets" (Langdon 1906; Hill 1908). Unfortunately, the remains found at the site did not provide us with evidence that this in fact was the function of the site, but the location marked on Hill's map led us to the exact site location. One large and deep pit with a narrower ditch extending east was the only surface feature at the site (Fig. 62). Rather extensive, but fallen, structural remains were found in the pit, but we could not determine what the original structure might have looked



Fig. 62. Remains at long-range target pit near American Creek.

like. Nearby were small wooden boxes which resemble recent styles of ammunition crates, but no markings were observed on the boxes nor was any spent ammunition or other indications of target practice observed in the area.

The final site relating to U. S. military activities beyond the core area and within our survey limits contained a single object--a sign marking the south boundary of the Fort Egbert Military Reservation. The sign (F.S. #63) was constructed of milled lumber pieces attached to a spruce log post. The lettering on the front of the sign was barely visible and read "U. S. MILITARY RESERVATION SOUTH BOUNDARY" while the reverse and back side read simply "U. S. MIL. RES." (Fig. 63). The sign was located along a trail which extended beyond the Wireless Station and was noted on one map as the trail to "Steel Creek 50 miles" (Hill 1908). Steele Creek was a small mining community located along the trail between Eagle and Chicken. A post office and roadhouse were maintained there between 1907 and 1951 (Haynes 1976). Thus, the sign no doubt alerted travelers that they were officially entering or departing property under the jurisdiction of the U. S. military. Since the sign was found along this trail and at the southern boundary, as noted on Hill's 1908 map, it is probable that it was not far from its original location.

Processing of Natural Resources. Two sawmills were located beyond the core area of the fort (Appendix IV).



Fig. 63. South boundary sign of Fort Egbert--1977.

They represent the only types of sites related to the processing of natural resources found in the survey area. One is the site location of C. M. Johansen's early twentieth century sawmill at Eagle (F.S. #73), while the other (F.S. #72) appears to be associated with the middle of the twentieth century. It is located on private property belonging to an elderly resident of Eagle.

No structural or material remains were found at the site of Johansen's sawmill, which was indicated only by a broad and deep deposit of sawdust along a road from the airfield toward a slough which extends between Mission Creek and the Yukon River. At one time three structures belonging to Johansen (Fig. 64) were situated on and about this deposit on his 18.30-acre tract of land, located only 300 feet from the Fort Egbert Sawmill (Building 23). In 1906 Johansen abandoned the site, however, moved the machinery to Fairbanks, and left the three structures intact on his property (Langdon 1906). Between 1906 and 1908 the military made several recommendations to purchase the buildings and acreage in order to have more control of the waterfront, to be able to handle more easily "saw logs" and



Fig. 64. Johansen's sawmill at Eagle, ca. 1901 (C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of Alaska Archives).

"fuel timber," and to avoid their purchase by others who might turn them into a "saloon, dance hall, and gambling place" adjacent to the fort (Langdon 1906; Plummer 1906). One historian has reported that in 1909 the city of Eagle purchased the Sawmill for \$500 in order to use the lumber for constructing a wellhouse (Grauman n.d.:42).

A more modern sawmill was found just north of the eastern extent of the Fort Egbert Target Range. A private road about one-quarter mile long extended between the site and another existing road, which runs between American Creek and the core area. An "open-air" sawmill covered by a roof but no walls, appeared to be in operating condition. It was at the western limit of this rather extensive work and storage area. A variety of material remains was observed and ranged from innumerable 55-gallon drums and 5-gallon cans to several types of mid-twentieth century trucks. One vehicle apparently once was used by the Alaska Road Commission, according to an identifying license plate, while another plate on the same vehicle showed that it was last licensed in 1960. No enclosed structures, dwellings or others, or indications of them were found at this locality.

Both sawmills obviously existed for the purpose of processing local timber into milled lumber used in the

construction of a variety of objects, perhaps including buildings, furniture, and boats. Although no features were found at the site of Johansen's sawmill, the historic record tells us that two other buildings were present in addition to the sawmill. These probably functioned as workshops and for housing. At the more modern sawmill no dwellings or workshops were found, although the site appears to have been used to store unused and disposed items, probably related to the sawmill operation. It is also likely that some of the woodcutting areas elsewhere in the survey area may have once been timber sources for both sawmill operators who milled the timber at the sites we found.

Transportation Routes. Several roads and trails found in the survey area are considered linear sites which have served a variety of functions in the Eagle area throughout the century (Appendix IV). Nine routes have been classified as roads, although they include a currently used and well-graded major State thoroughfare as well as overgrown roads of the past and a recent road cut to a homesite. The most outstanding of these is the Taylor Highway (F.S. #74) whose original route in the vicinity of Eagle was included on a 1908 map of Fort Egbert and labeled the "Alaska Road Commission Road to Forty Mile River." This route, like the Steele Creek trail which paralleled part of it, functioned as a mail trail and transportation route for miners, trappers, and other travelers who made their way between Eagle and the Fortymile district or to points beyond. As part of the Taylor Highway completed in the early 1950's, this thoroughfare, maintained in all seasons except winter, now functions as an avenue of communication and commerce linking the communities of Eagle and Chicken with the rest of Alaska and the Yukon Territory.

Several roads were probably limited mostly to use by the military since they are located between the core area and American Creek and are shown on a 1908 map of the fort (Hill 1908). Two of these (F.S. #22, 23) appear to be relatively major routes traversing the ridge west and south of the fort linking the core area with the Alaska Road Commission's "Forty Mile River Road." The westernmost road (F.S. #22) is cited on one map as the "Valdez Road" (Langdon 1906). Another (F.S. #24) appears to have linked these two routes, while a fourth (F.S. #21) may have functioned simply as a shortcut to the core area west of Building 14. A fifth route north of the core area and paralleling Mission Creek is also on an original map of the

fort and joined another road specifically labeled "Wood Road" (Fitzpatrick 1901).

All of these roads are still fairly well-defined, although they are partially overgrown and impassable with a standard four-wheeled vehicle. It is probable that these routes functioned as wood roads for the military since several wood-cutting areas were found close to each of these routes. Although it is reported that Fort Egbert had a standing contract for 3,000 cords of wood per year (Haynes 1976), it is possible that contractors employed these routes for delivery of the wood to the post. Today, it is probable that many or all of these abandoned roads are used by the local population for gaining access to trapline trails in the area or for small game hunting, since winter travel is possible by snow machine or dog sled along these routes.

Another road (F.S. #16), which was probably associated with woodcutting as well, was located closer to American Creek and farther from the core area and Eagle. This route is shown on Hill's 1908 map and is also marked on a 1956 USGS map. It can still be traversed easily with a four-wheel-drive vehicle. Signs of woodcutting were observed along the road. A shorter roadcut (F.S. #19) was also located in this area but did not appear to serve as a link between any well-defined activity areas. Tree cutting has occurred in this vicinity. A linear clearing in the area gives the appearance of a road cut but one could question its use as a transportation route.

A final but less significant road (F.S. #39) represents current activity, and one which can be observed increasingly in Eagle. This site is a recent road clearing to a homesite. The road was impassable except with a tracked vehicle and is the first clearing to a future home in the community.

Five trails were located which represent associations with past and current uses as well as the U. S. military and trapping activities in the area. Three (F.S. #25, 26, 29) were west of the core area in the vicinity of many of the roads reported above. These trails all link major routes with one another and are all noted on Hill's 1908 map of Fort Egbert. It is probable that the trails, like the roads discussed above, also functioned as shortcuts and wood-hauling routes. In fact, one has been used recently as an access route to a timber-cutting area.

Two other trails were found which apparently serve as routes for running traplines. One (F.S. #60), located south of the abandoned Wireless Station along an abandoned trail to Steele Creek, contained two trap sets and a lean-to, suggesting that the trail is a trapline trail. Another trapline trail (F.S. #65) was found opposite the city of Eagle and appeared to coincide with a moose trail. This trail, however, was marked with plastic flagging tape. Each of the five trails is narrow and is passable only on foot or with a snow machine or dog team.

Miscellaneous. Eleven sites were found which are not clearly associated with any of the previously mentioned activities. These sites, however, tend to fall into two groups, which we have termed isolated finds and unidentifiable activity areas. Five localities were typified by one or several material items not associated with any other activity in the immediate vicinity. At one site (F.S. #14) a Yukon-type wood-burning stove and stove pipe were located in the flood plain along the east limit of American Creek. The locality is probably flooded annually during spring breakup. Thus, it seems that the stove and pipe were redeposited at the site from river action and probably will be redeposited at another locality in the coming years. On another locality (F.S. #30), west of the core area, we found an isolated pile of rusted cans near the intersection of a trail and road. This deposit was not found adjacent to tree-cutting localities as others often were, nor in an area where small trash piles were frequently observed. The site may represent a picnic area where people left trash behind. It is questionable whether those who deposited the debris at this locality were the same individuals who peeled birch bark from a nearby tree. Near the west limit of the road to the abandoned Wireless Station (F.S. #47), a stack of logs, all sawed the same length and all in an advanced state of decay, was found. It is questionable whether the logs were taken from the adjacent area. At the mouth of Mission Creek on Eagle Peak (F.S. #55) a survey marker, bench marks, and double insulated wire were located. These individual items were intentionally left at the site by BLM--the markers used in land surveying and the wire apparently used in conjunction with a repeater for the Fire Guard Station. No evidence of other activity was found in the immediate area.

The final locality of isolated artifacts was about one mile below the mouth of Mission Creek (F.S. #58). On the ground surface were found two wooden objects. One was a

hand-hewn club-like object, while the other could be described as a large wooden wedge. Both appeared in good condition but how long ago they were deposited and what their function may have been is not known.

Six sites reveal the use of a particular area for an undetermined activity. These sites differ from those mentioned above in that they are not confined to a single point on the ground and are not a deposit of items, intentional or otherwise. One site (F.S. #1) is a pit at the edge of a high terrace overlooking American Creek. Nearby were found milled pieces of lumber with wire nails which may or may not have been associated with the pit. The lumber appeared as if it was once part of a structure which had been arranged in some fashion rather than a haphazard deposit. This site may have been related to a target pit which was located in this vicinity, as noted on a 1906 map of Fort Egbert (Langdon 1906). The evidence, however, is far from conclusive. Another site (F.S. #4), equally puzzling, of recent manufacture is marked by the presence of four spruce timbers horizontally attached to spruce trees. A third area of past human activity (F.S. #39) was found along the left bank of American Creek on a low terrace. A piece of wood posted on a tree probably served as a sign at one time but no lettering was visible. Decayed milled lumber and five-gallon cans were also found in the vicinity. A road passed along the west side of the locality which seemed to further delineate the area as having served as the site of some unknown activity in the past.

Along the ridge between the city and American Creek were found three other sites of unknown activity. One (F.S. #32) was marked by three spruce stumps extending about 3-1/2 feet above the ground surface, each with a cut spruce timber leaning on the stump. The cut timber had not been delimbed although it was notched above the point where it was situated on the stump. Generally, these all appeared like incompletely constructed marten pole sets, since the cut timber was not delimbed and no other evidence that a trap and bait had been set were present. Also, it is not common, as noted earlier, to place three pole sets all close to one another. One might assume then that this locality served for instruction in the construction of marten pole sets. However, the evidence is not conclusive.

South of the Taylor Highway just beyond the city limits, a spruce log (F.S. #40) was found lashed with

electrical wire across three spruce trees. The work did not appear to be recent since the trees had grown around the wire.

The last unidentifiable activity area (F.S. #41) was found at the junction of the Wireless Station road and the Taylor Highway, where a shallow depression about 15 feet square was situated. No structural or material debris was present. It did not look like other depressions indicative of cabins found elsewhere in the survey area, but neither did it appear to have been naturally formed. All of the sites seem to reveal some sort of human activity in a variety of settings, and some show recent use of local materials in construction. The majority provided no clues to the nature of site activities.

CHAPTER VI.

EXCAVATIONS AT THE QUARTERMASTER'S STABLES

INTRODUCTION

Excavations were undertaken at the Quartermaster's Stables (Building 14--commonly referred to as the "mule barn"; Fig. 65) during the period from May 15 to June 10, 1977. The request for archeological work at the stables from BLM was very specific and included the following.

1) Complete excavation on the south and east sides of the structure to include an area extending from these walls out 2 m, with a systematic or random sampling for an additional 4 m. The first area (that from the walls out 2 m) represented one of direct impact that would result from trenching in connection with restoration and stabilization work during summer 1977. The second area of indirect impact would receive surface disturbance from the use of heavy machinery.

2) Testing and screening on the north and west sides of the stables--areas that had been severely disturbed by previous activities of the Alaska Road Commission and had been further disturbed by BLM in 1975 when test pits had been dug on the north side to inspect the foundations. Complete excavation of any prehistoric materials found within an area extending from the walls on the south and east sides out 6 m.

3) Location of any subsurface structural remains within the excavated area, although none were anticipated.

4) Identification of the location of a possible structure believed to have been ca. 6 m from the southwest corner of the stables.

5) Determination if a suspected livestock door on the north wall of the stables had existed.

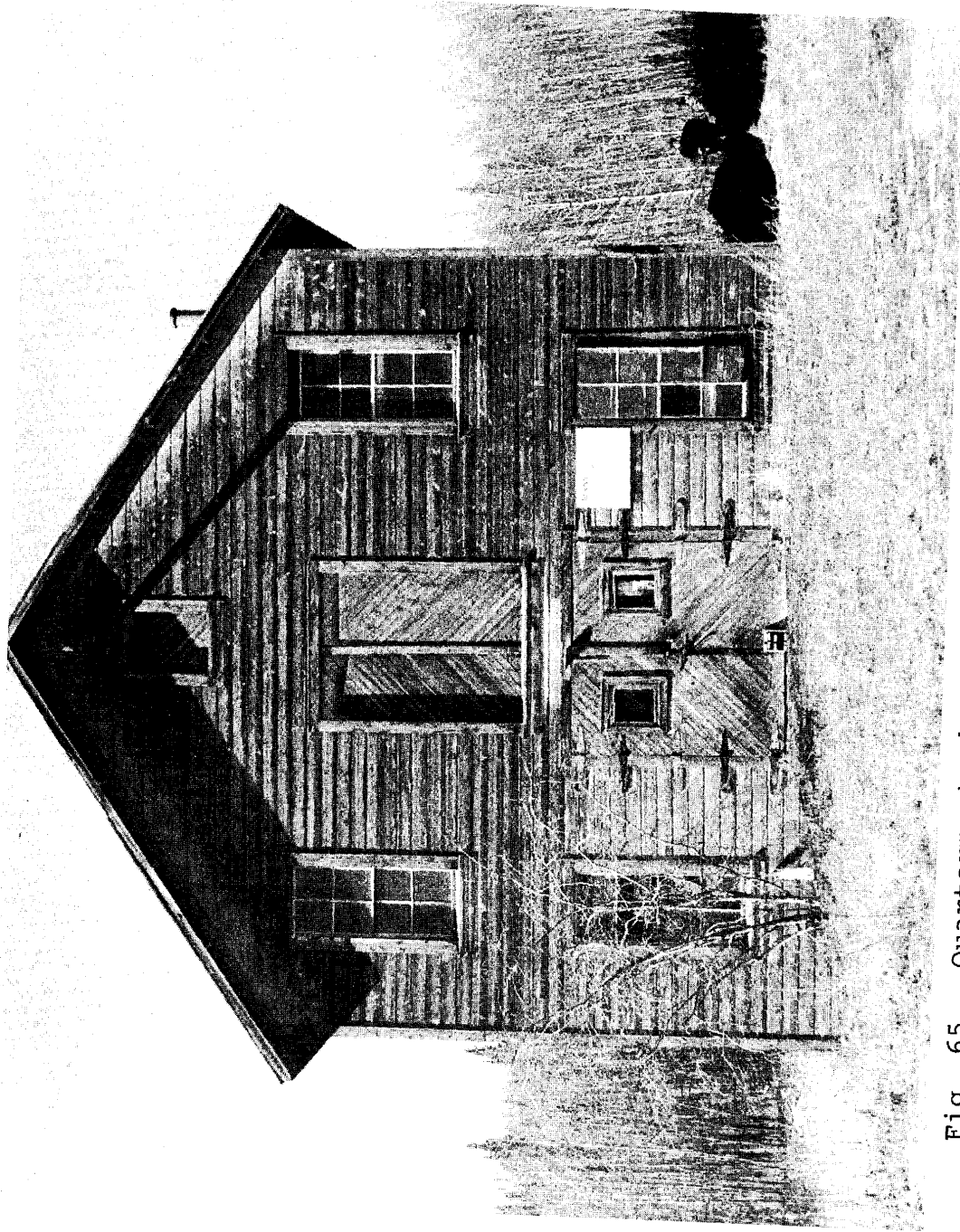


Fig. 65. Quartermaster's Stables, Building #14, east wall.



Fig. 66. BLM's 1975 test pit in area adjacent to suspected door on north side of the stables.

6) Identification of a corral fence line which photographic evidence suggested had existed along the south side of the stables.

7) Determination of dates and details of construction of kennels on the south side.

8) Examination of any other activity-specific areas in the vicinity of the stables.

RESEARCH STRATEGY

The research strategy suggested by us was designed to answer these questions. However, the question regarding the former presence of a door on the north side was dispensed with immediately. Inspection of exterior siding on this wall during summer 1976 revealed no break in the siding and various archival photographs contained no door. Subsurface evidence of any entryway would have been destroyed already since the suspected door fell within the area test pitted by BLM in 1975 (Fig. 66). This test

pitting, along with the previous grading by the Alaska Road Commission, made excavation in this area of negligible value. In addition to the data requested by BLM, we also proposed to try to determine how the road system had been situated about the stables.

The research strategy included total excavation on the south and east sides within the directly impacted area with systematic sampling in the adjacent 4 m wide area. On the south side, this entailed excavations of the dog kennels, which extended from the southwest corner of the stables east for a length of ca. 33 m, and the area east of the kennels to the southeast corner of the structure. Field changes were made in that two of the 19 kennels were not excavated since both contained very large trees. These two kennels appeared to be identical to others and it was our judgment that little, if any, additional data would result from their excavation. In the area east of the kennels, total excavation was not pursued since we determined this area had been filled at some time in the past, probably after the removal of a shed (discussed later) and was nearly sterile. Excavations were performed only in those areas east of the kennels revealing structural features or high densities of cultural material (Fig. 67). The proposed extensive sampling of the indirectly impacted area was changed in the field since very little was being recovered and since excavations on the east side of the stables had revealed an unanticipated structure as well as a number of cultural remains. It was our judgment that more time should be allotted to the eastern side of the structure rather than pursuing the extensive testing on the south. The proposed sampling was altered to include the excavation of a total of 12 m²--excavation units placed in three areas in a checkerboard fashion of 4 squares each (Fig. 67). In addition, two trenches were dug. The first (4 m long) extended south from kennel B-1 in order to examine a coal deposit which was exposed while excavating this kennel. The second trench ran south from the southeast corner of the structure to determine the placement of corral fence posts. Both trenches were excavated with the assistance of a backhoe. Core samples were also taken on the south side at 5 m intervals located 6 and 11 m south of the stables to obtain information on possible activity areas.

As mentioned above, the east side (Fig. 65) received more excavation than had been anticipated. A ramp was uncovered which extended further out from the building than the area targeted for excavation. Total excavation of the ramp was determined to be desirable and was accomplished.

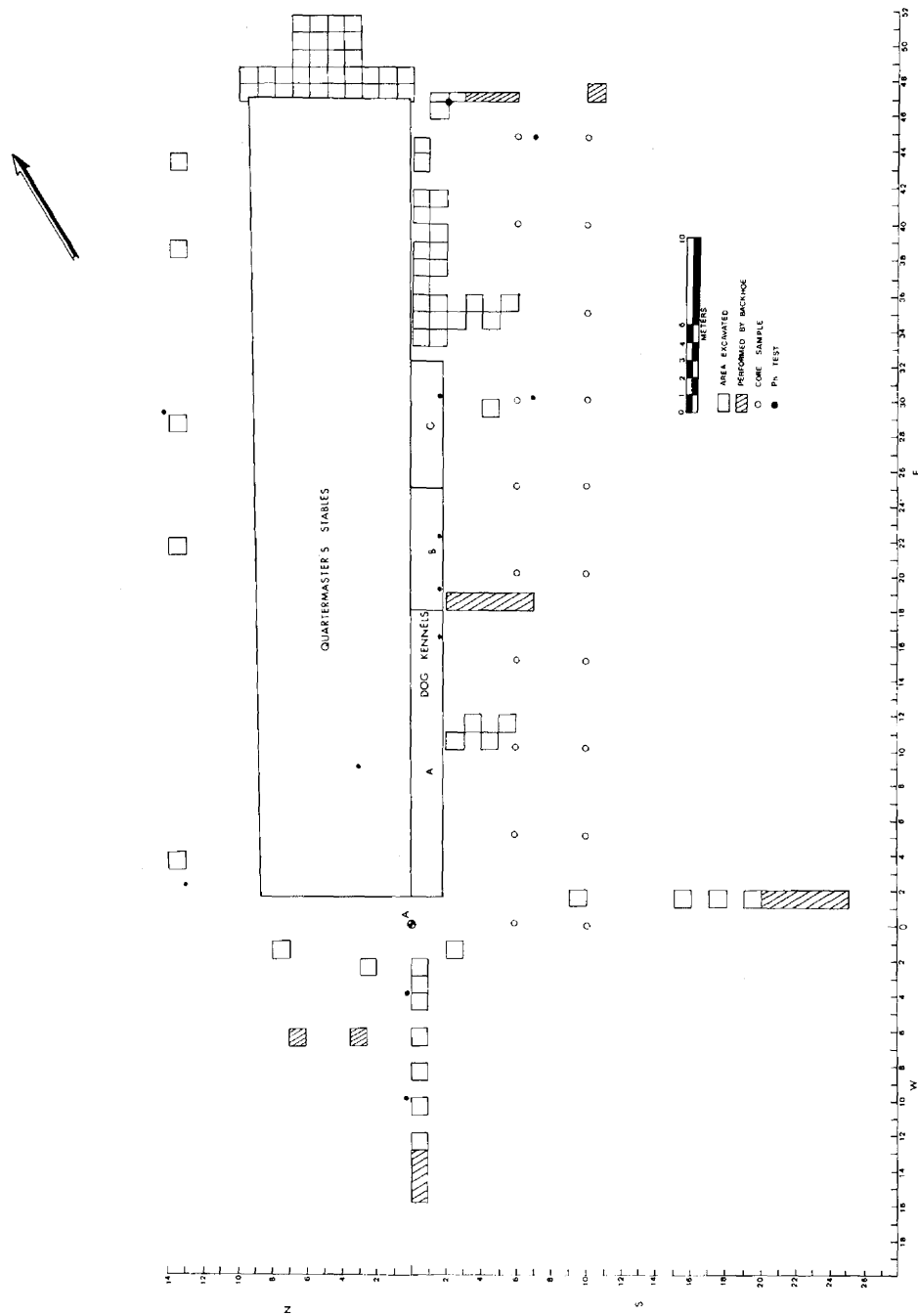


Fig. 67. Site grid map.

The north and west sides, which had been severely disturbed (Figs. 68, 69), were test pitted (5 test pits on the north; 3 on the west) in the berms which had resulted from former grading. Along with test pitting on the west side, two trenches were put in to try and determine the location of a road near the stables which is shown on early maps of the fort. The first trench was placed from the southwest corner of the structure running 15 m west. The second ran off the same corner 24 m south. Both were 1 m wide.

All excavations around the structure used a grid of 1 m squares aligned with the south wall of the stables (Fig. 67). An arbitrary point (Datum A) was selected 1.5 m west of the structure's southwest corner as the grid's baseline. The kennels were labelled A, B, and C designating three units constructed separately and conforming with architectural notes being prepared by BLM. The exception to the use of 1 m² excavation units was in the area of the dog kennels located on the south side. In this case, each kennel (19: kennels A1-A9, kennels B1-B5, and kennels C1-C5) was excavated as a single unit rather than in 1 m squares. All areas were excavated in arbitrary 10 cm levels with artifacts recorded in terms of level and square.

There were two problems encountered in the field that need to be considered in any future work of this nature. The first had to do with the timing of the field work in the Eagle area. More time was required to excavate the dog kennels than planned because of ice and frozen soil below the kennels' floor boards. It was necessary to rip out all the floor boards allowing the soil to thaw while moving back and forth from kennel to kennel as they thawed rather than completing one kennel at a time. A starting time later in June would have alleviated these problems, allowing excavations to proceed at a faster and smoother rate. However, this would have shortened the time available for the stabilization crew to complete their work. In the future, if feasible, archeological investigations should be performed during the summer preceding the summer when stabilization activities are planned, if possible.

The second problem relates to a need for better and more accurate information for the archeologists regarding the exact amount of area that will be impacted by stabilization work. While it was reported that stabilization activities would only directly impact the area extending from the stable walls out 2 m, in fact, trenching by the

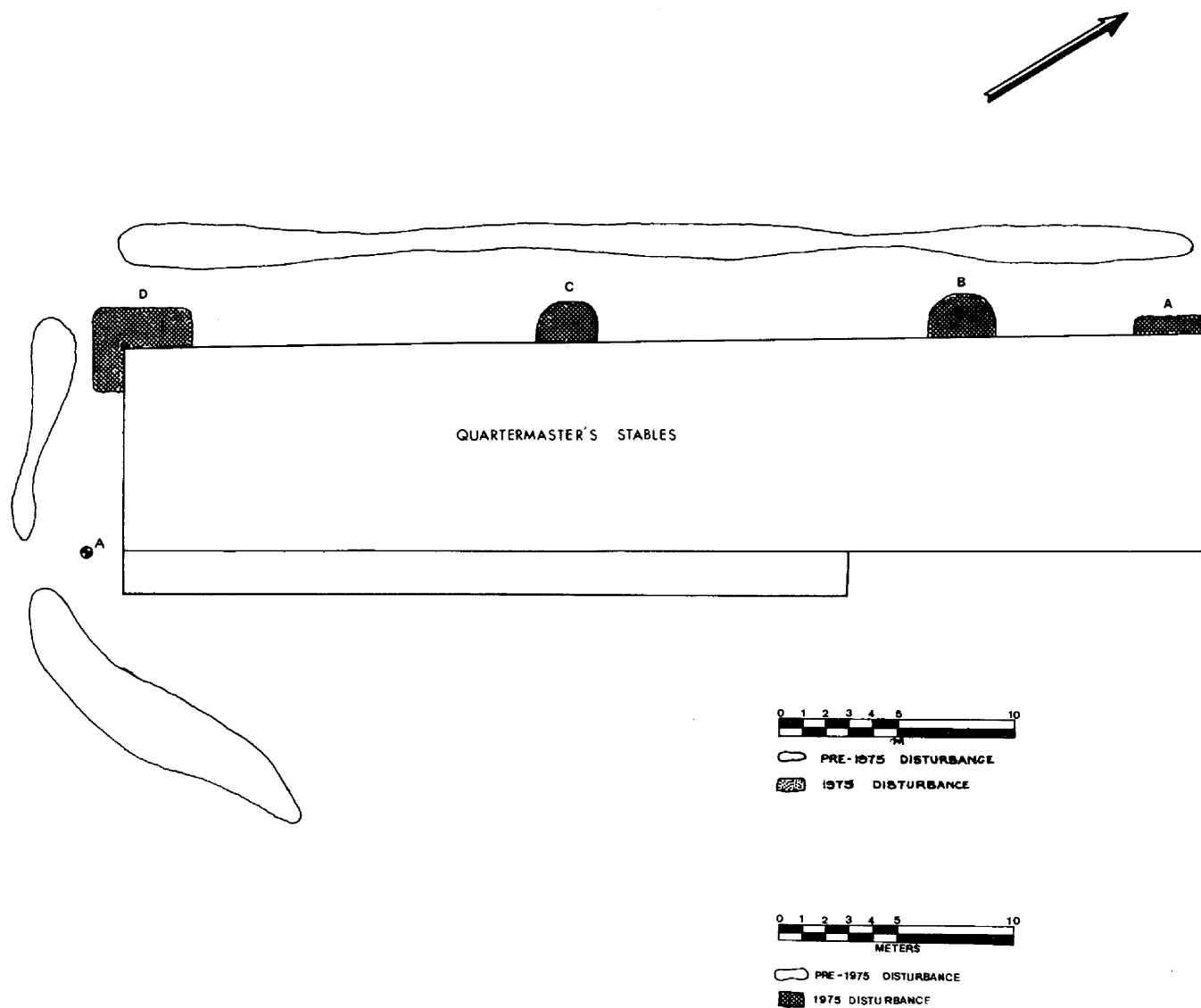


Fig. 68. Disturbed areas on the north and west sides of the stables.



Fig. 69. Test pitting in the grading berm on the north side of the stables.

restoration crew on the north side (Fig. 70) exceeded this area considerably. Since this area had already been previously disturbed by the Alaska Road Commission and by BLM in 1975, previous damage did not make this action serious. However, we pointed out to the stabilization crew that the initial design should not be modified on the undisturbed sides of the structure. In addition, we observed the stabilization crew excavating below the floor boards of the stables. There had been no mention of this work by BLM and no archeological work had been planned for this disturbance.



Fig. 70. Stabilization trenching on the stables' north side.

STRUCTURAL HISTORY

The Quartermaster's Stables were constructed in two phases. The first included the construction of the main floor which was completed sometime prior to May 1900 and was built by the troops at a cost of \$500 to the government for materials (Wright 1900). This portion was a one-story frame structure with drop siding, designed to house 53 animals and replaced an earlier barn. The second phase was the construction of a hay loft above the main floor which was built in 1901 (Bellamy 1909, Anonymous 1902a). The completed structure (Figs. 71, 72) was a two-story frame building measuring 30 feet (north/south axis) by 150 feet (east/west axis) with shingle roof and terra cotta chimneys, two harness rooms in addition to the 53 stalls on the main floor and two rooms on the second floor for the storage of hay and grain. The total cost for the construction of the stables was \$6,216.48 (Anonymous 1902a). In 1904, new floors were put in the stalls and the exterior of the building was painted (Anonymous 1904).

Later a shed and dog kennels were added to the south side of the stables. The time of their construction is not historically documented except for photographs. Two photographs, one dating from 1904 (Fig. 73) and one from 1907 (National Trust n.d.:22, Fig. 4) show a low one-story structure or shed on the south side. Date of removal is not known but photographs indicate that the shed was gone in the 1920's (see Chapter V, Fig. 4).



Fig. 71. Stables as they appeared upon completion in 1901 (C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of Alaska Archives).

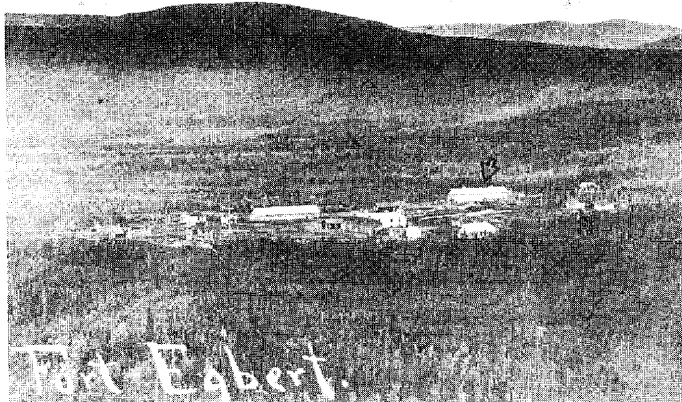


Fig. 72. Fort Egbert in 1901--Quatermaster's Stables right center (C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of Alaska Archives).

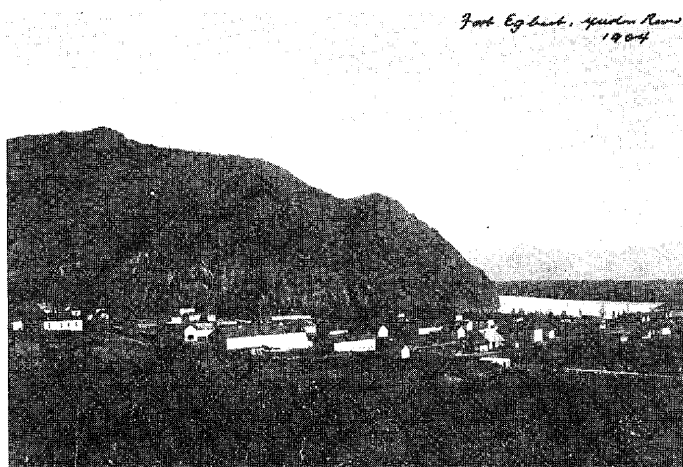


Fig. 73. Fort Egbert in 1904--Quatermaster's Stables left center (C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon Archives).

The photograph (Fig. 73) from 1904 suggests the additional presence of one set (B series) of kennels just west of the shed. However, the photograph from 1907 (National Trust n.d.:22, Fig. 4) shows no kennels. The inconsistency in the two photographs has not been resolved and it is possible that one or both are incorrectly dated. However, since written records indicate that the stables were painted white in 1904 and since today a large area of the south wall of the stables, probably coinciding with the outline of the former shed is easily defined by a lack of white paint, it is probable that the shed was present in 1904. In addition, since the interior wall (north) of each kennel (which is, in fact, the south wall of the stables) is painted white, it can be assumed that they did not exist prior to 1904.

On the basis of observations of the kennels' construction design in the field, it was determined that they were constructed in three phases forming three different units labeled A, B, and C from west to east (Figs. 67, 74). The B kennels (five kennels) were constructed first and may have existed at the same time as the shed (Fig. 73). The C kennels (five kennels) were constructed next and are similar to the B series in construction. Because of the location of the C kennels, their construction marks the time when the shed was removed because in their location they would have been totally enclosed by the shed. The A kennels (nine kennels) were built last and differed from the B's and C's in construction. It cannot be determined when these construction events occurred.

The stables were used by the military until July of 1911 (Grauman n.d.:43) when the fort was closed except for a small signal corps detachment. The Interior Department granted the Alaska Road Commission (Ibid:45) the structure in the 1920's and a 1925 map of the fort drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that the building was empty at the time. The Alaska Road Commission used the structure for vehicle storage, removing some of the interior stalls to accommodate this equipment. In recent years, the building has been used to store and display "antiques" donated by the local population. Because of BLM's stabilization activities, these items were moved to the Water Wagon Shed in May 1977.

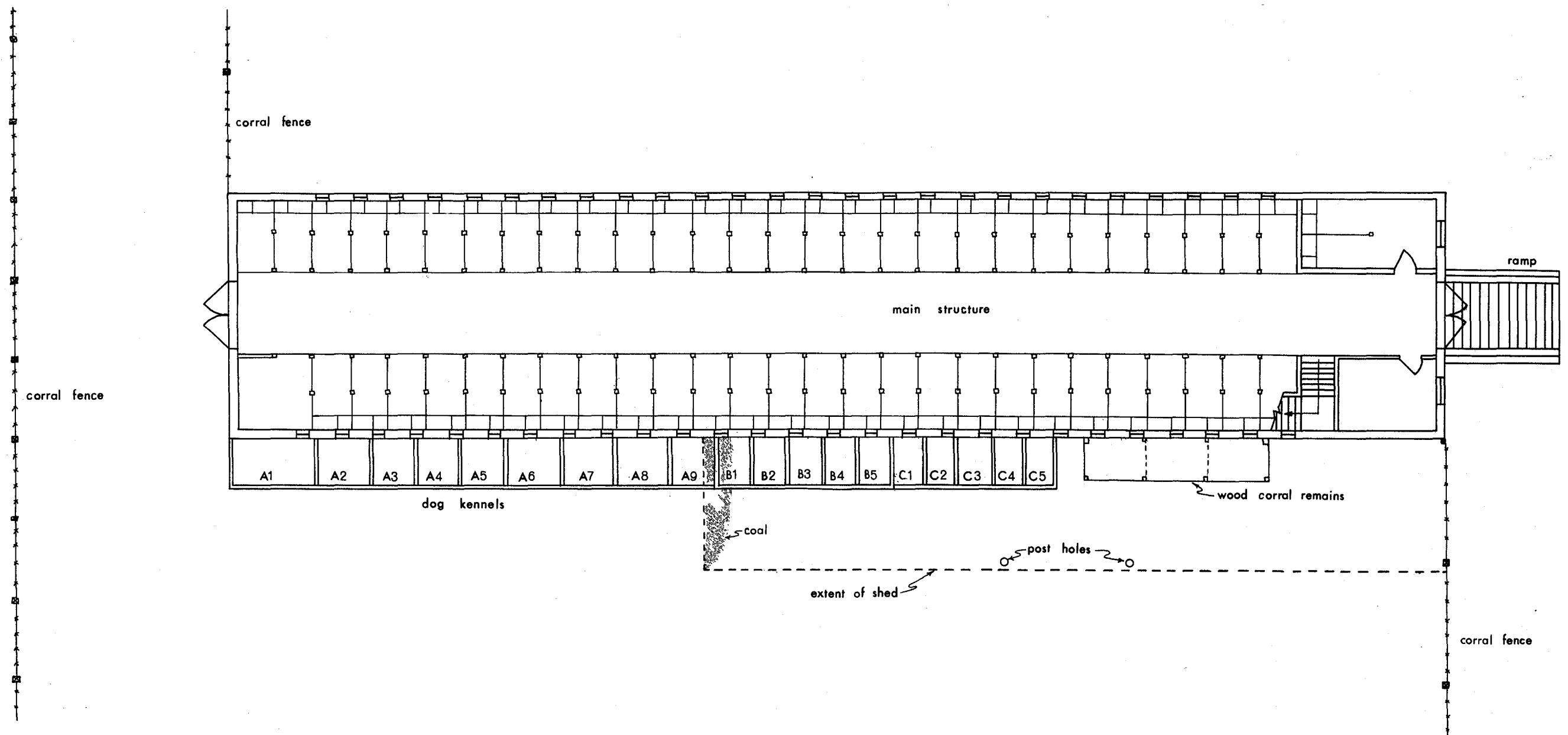
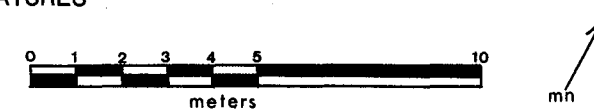


FIG.74. STRUCTURAL REMAINS AND FEATURES



STRUCTURAL REMAINS

There were four structural questions that were of interest in the archeological excavations: the locations of corral fences and roads around the stables, foundation and structural information on the dog kennels, and the location of any other structural features in the areas to be impacted by the stabilization work. The dog kennels were well documented because of their state of preservation at the time of excavation and BLM compiled architectural drawings and notes prior to our removal of the kennels. During the course of excavating, the locations of the corral and road systems were investigated. The corral fence lines were determined in the immediate vicinity of the stables (Fig. 74). Excavations failed to reveal any signs of roads. In addition, the excavations uncovered a ramp leading to the stables' doors on the east side (Fig. 74). Structural features that presumably are associated with a shed that can be seen in earlier photographs, discussed above, were also found on the south side of the structure (Fig. 74).

DOG KENNELS

The dog kennels were located along the stable's south wall extending from the southwest corner, east for a total length of 32.7 m. As noted above, the kennels were composed of three separate units (Figs. 74, 75), representing different periods of construction.

Because of their state of deterioration, the original kennels could not be preserved. They lacked roofing and consisted only of original walls and flooring. The walls were recorded for reconstruction and removed by the stabilization crew prior to excavations leaving the flooring to be cleared and removed by the archeological crew (Fig. 76). All the flooring was covered with vegetation (moss and grass) as well as debris (Fig. 77) that required clearing. The majority of cultural material that was retrieved from the kennels was found in the moss and grass covering (Level I). Level II was composed of excavations beneath the floor boards, extending 20 cm below the ground surface. The floor boards, once cleared, varied in their state of preservation (Figs. 78, 79).

Kennels B and C are similar in type of construction and size. They were approximately 1.9 m in length and 1.75

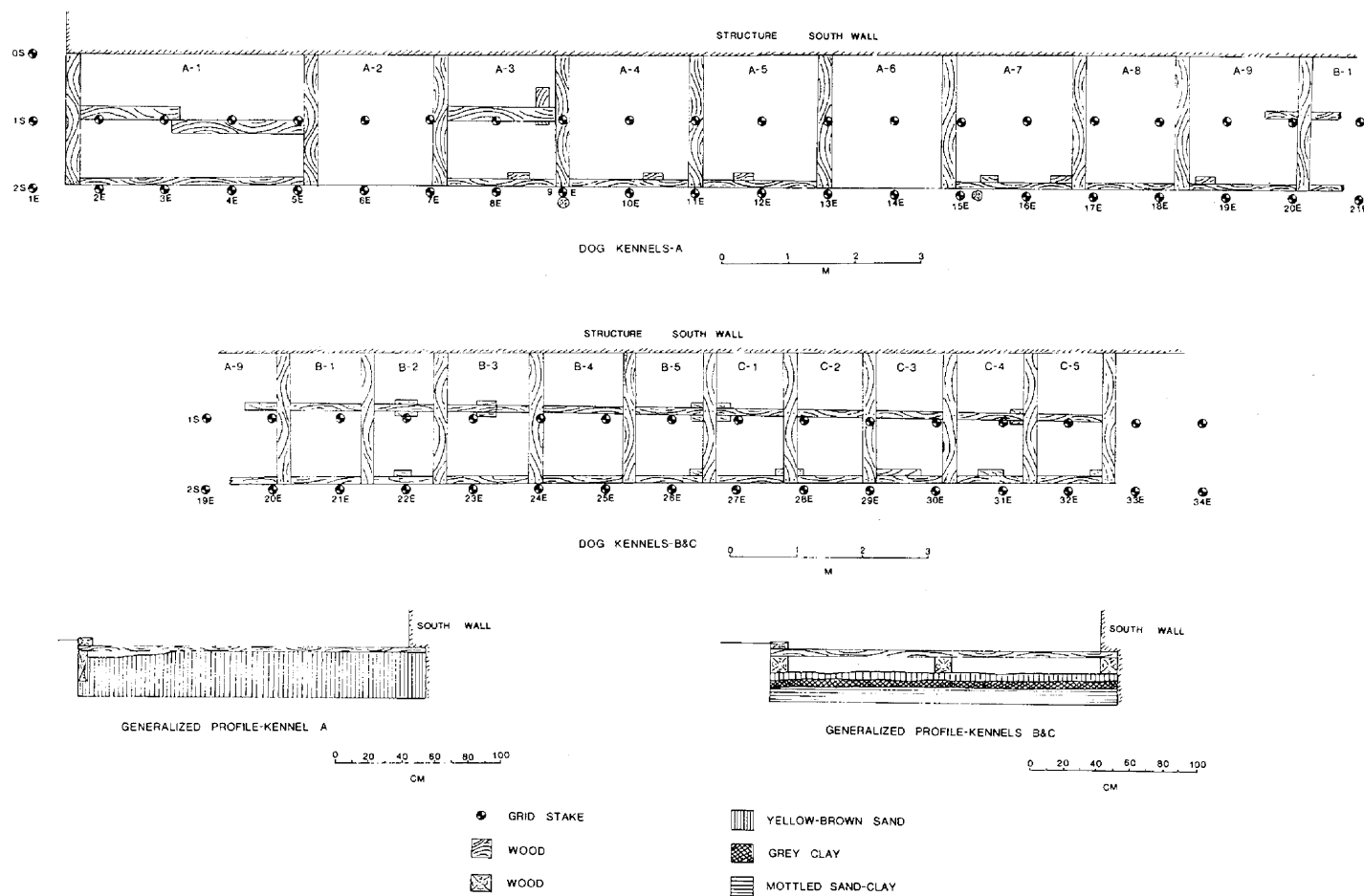


Fig. 75. Plan view and profiles of the dog kennels.



Fig. 76. Dog kennels after removal of walls.



Fig. 77. Debris covering the kennels' surface.

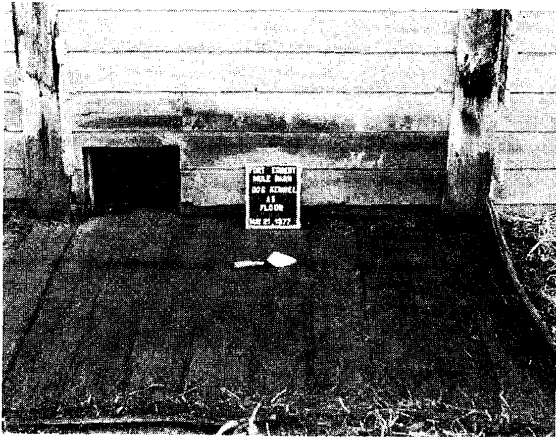


Fig. 78. Floorboards of Kennel A-5.

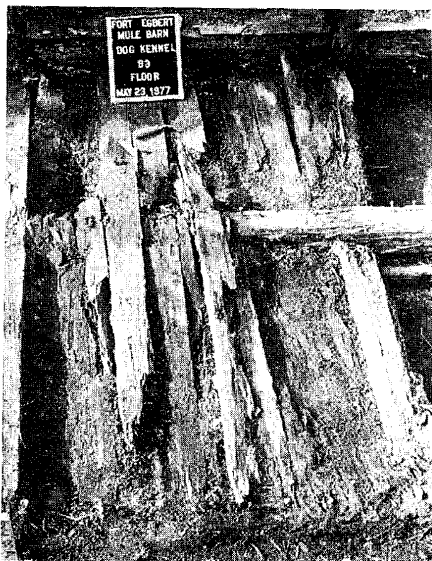


Fig. 79. Floorboards of Kennel B-3.



Fig. 80. Subflooring of Kennel B-1.

m in width. Construction involved the use of three 4" x 4" stringers (Figs. 74, 80)--one under the edge of the stable's south wall, one in the center of the kennel parallel to the stable's south wall, and one at the kennel's southern limit parallel to the structure's south wall placed on sandy soil. The floor boards (1-3/4" x 8" boards) were placed on top of the stringers, perpendicular to the structure's south wall. On top of the floor boards, aligned with the southern stringer, a 1-1/4" x 3" board was placed (Figs. 75, 80) as the heel plate for the kennels' wall framing.

Unlike the B and C kennels, the A kennels had only one stringer as support. This stringer (3" x 7") was placed under the southern limits of the kennels, having the floor boards' southern edges resting on it and remaining areas (Fig. 81) resting directly on sandy soil (Fig. 74). The southern edge, like that of the B and C kennels, had a 1-1/4" x 3" board on top of the floor boards functioning as the heel plate for the wall framing, aligned with the



Fig. 81. Subflooring of Kennel A-8.

stringer. The size of the kennels in the A unit varied from 1.75 m to 3.7 m in width and were 1.9 m long. In all cases, the kennels (A, B, and C) showed signs of settling with bearing pads (1-1/4" x 8" x 12" boards) placed under the stringers to help arrest the settling.

SHED AND SMALL CORRAL (?)

Excavations on the stable's south side east of the dog kennels revealed two structural features. The first appears to be the remains of a small corral (Fig. 74). It was uncovered 1 m east of the dog kennels and extended 6.9 m east, composed of three stalls 1.5 m wide and 2.3 m long. The only remains were fence posts (2-1/2" x 3") and decayed boards--presumably discarded fence rails.

The second structural feature (Fig. 74) correlates with the shed that is visible in Fig. 73. This shed probably existed prior to the construction of the dog kennels, as discussed above, and its outline can be seen on the stable's south wall, defined by the absence of white paint (Fig. 82) which is still visible between the boards. This unpainted area begins 18.91 m east of the southwest corner of the structure and continues to the southeast corner defining the length of the shed as 28.37 m. The roof height of the shed was 3.3 m against the stable, slanting south to an unknown height. The width of the shed was defined by a coal deposit along what would have been the structure's west wall and two post holes (Figs. 74, 83) from its south wall. The coal deposit extended from the stable's south wall to a point 5.2 m south. The centers of both post holes (30 cm in diameter) were 4.7 m south of the stable's south wall. On the south side of one post hole (Fig. 83), a line (15 cm wide) of stained soil that denoted the shed roof's drip line was found. From these remains, it can be determined that the shed's dimensions were approximately 5 m x 28 m.

The relationship, if any, between the shed and corral cannot be determined. It is not known whether the corral and shed existed at the same time or whether the corral was built after the removal of the shed.

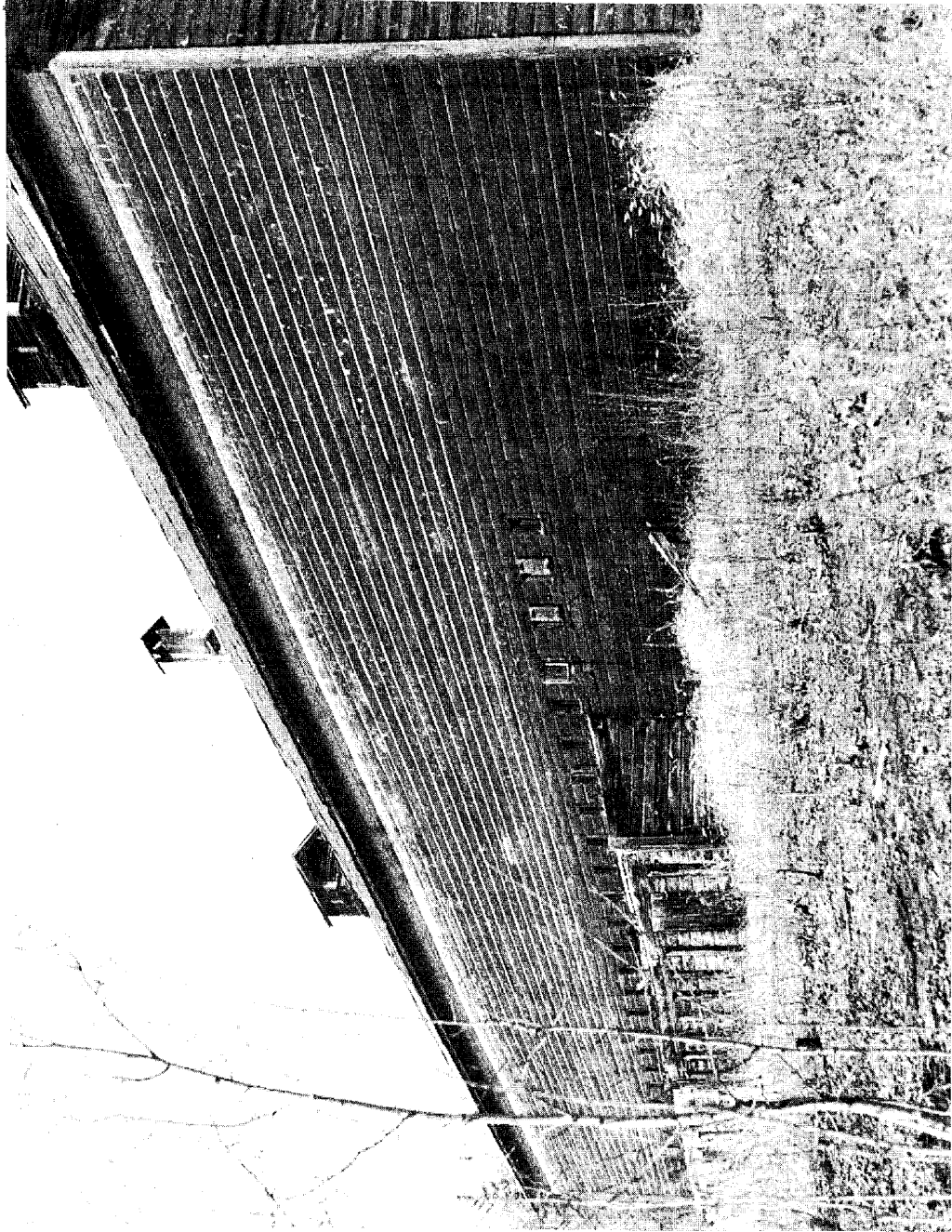


Fig. 82. Shed outline on the south wall of stables.



Fig. 83. Shed's south wall post hole with soil coloration defining roof's dripline.

RAMP

On the east side of the stables leading to the doors, remains of a ramp were uncovered (Figs. 74, 84, 85) which were overlain by gravel. This ramp was centered on the east door and had a width of 3.5 m and a length of 4.25 m. Support of the ramp along the stable's east wall was provided by five 5" x 7" posts with 3" x 7" stringers resting on these perpendicular to the wall. Two 3" x 7" stringers were placed 1.5 m and 3.75 m south and parallel to the structure's east wall below these five stringers as bearing supports. On top of the five main stringers the floor boards (1-1/4" x 8") were placed parallel to the east wall. On the north and south edges of the ramp, two 1-1/4" x 8" boards were on top and perpendicular to the floor boards.

The area along the edge of the stables (from the wall to a point 1 m east) below the ramp was composed of fill (Fig. 86) made up of loose soil and wood debris. This area reflects fill placed around the structure at the time of construction completion. The rest of the ramp was placed directly on soil.

CORRAL

Test trenches were placed in various areas around the structure to attempt to establish corral fence positions that are shown on the various early maps of the fort (Fig. 67). Three separate fence lines were uncovered (Fig. 74).

The first fence line was found west of the stables. This line was 8.1 m west of the structure running in a north/south direction. The fence posts were 10 cm x 10 cm

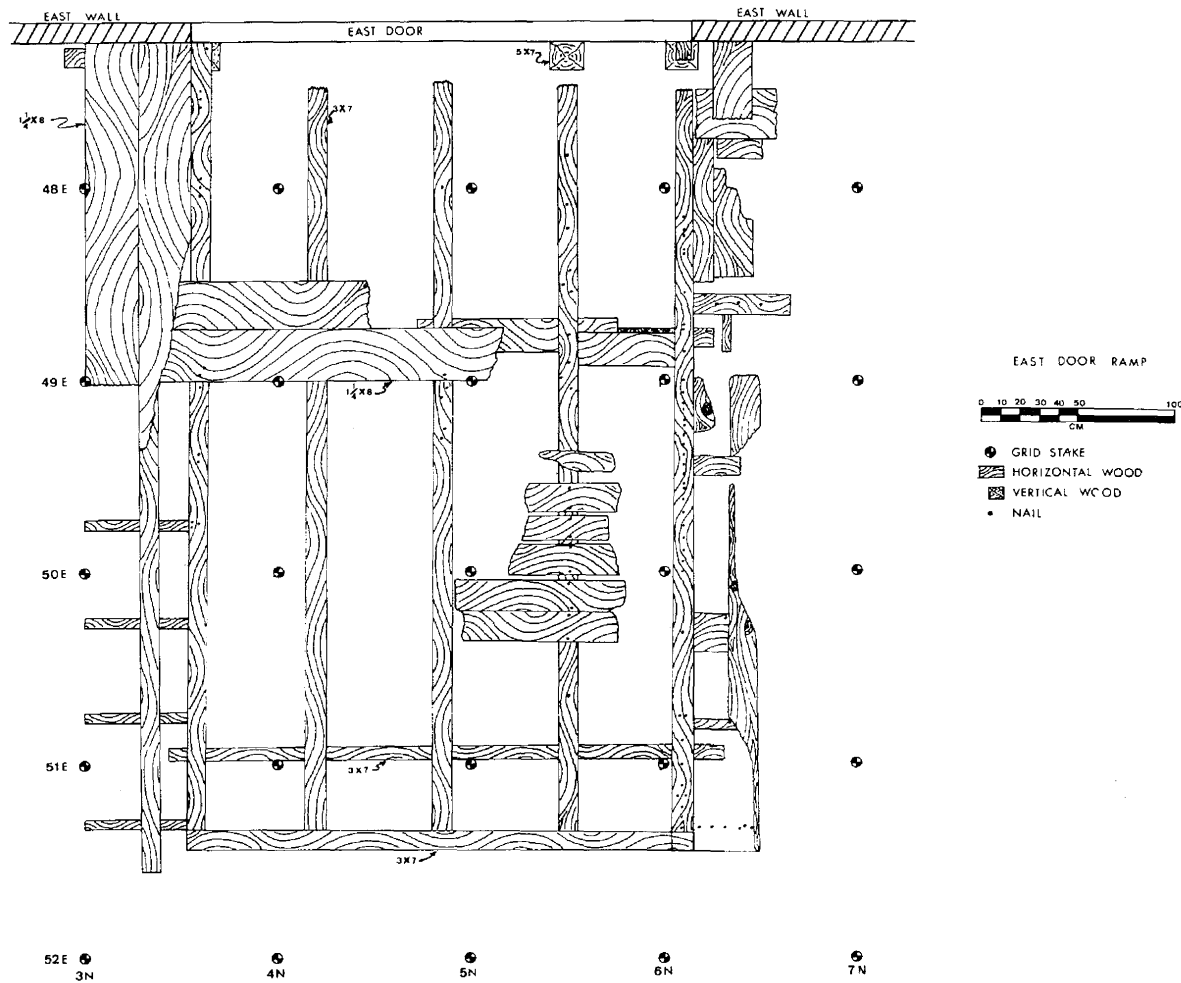


Fig. 84. East door ramp.

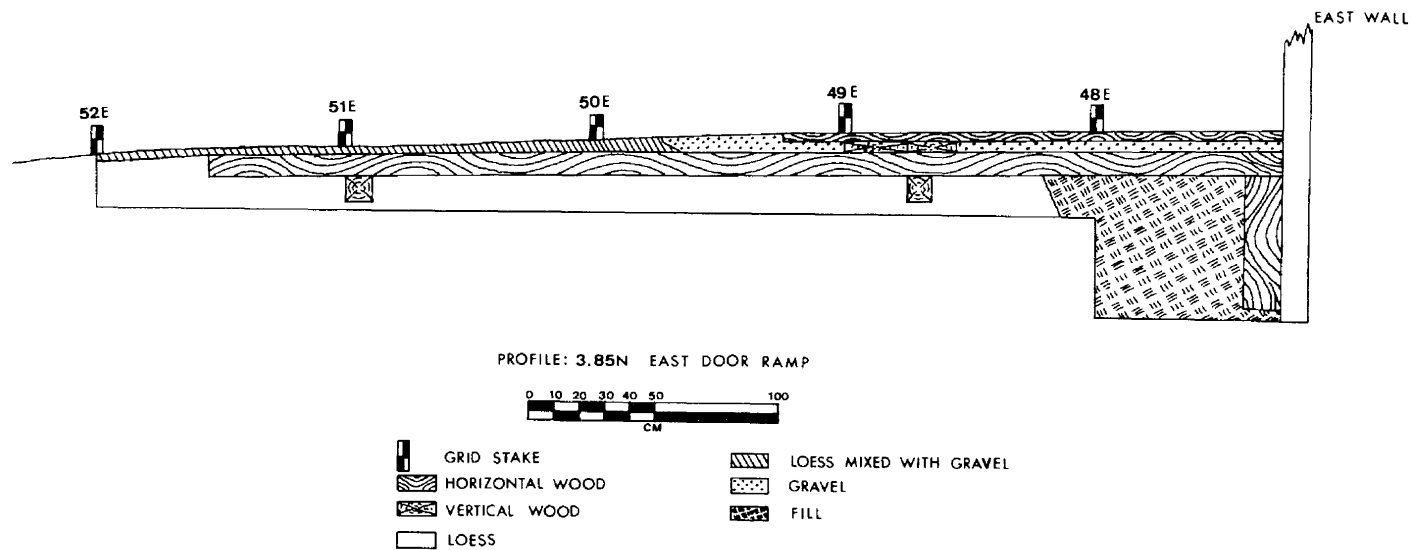


Fig. 85. East door ramp profile.



Fig. 86. Fill along the stables' east wall.

posts placed at intervals of 3 m. The second fence line was uncovered running south from the stables' southeast corner. This fence line was composed of sets of two 10 cm x 10 cm posts placed side-by-side at intervals of 4.6 m. The second set of posts uncovered from this fence line (9.2 m south of stables' southeast corner) had rocks supporting their south side and may mark where the corral gate may have existed. Both of these fences were Hartman Wire Panel Fence that was five feet in height. This fencing replaced the original wooden corral fencing (Fig. 87) in 1908 and was composed of no. 12 galvanized steel wire mesh, two or three inches wide (Quartermaster's Supply Records 1908).

The third fence line was uncovered during stabilization trenching activities at the northwest corner of the stables (Fig. 74). This fence post was 4.6 m north of the corner and probably represents the same type of fencing material used for the other two fences.

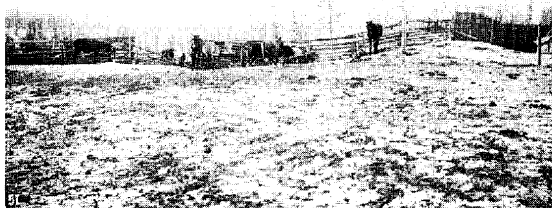


Fig. 87. Original wooden corral fence (Quartermaster General, National Archives, Washington, D.C.).

Early maps of the fort also show a fence line extending south from the stables' southwest corner. Test trenching in this area failed to reveal any signs of such a fence line.

ROADS

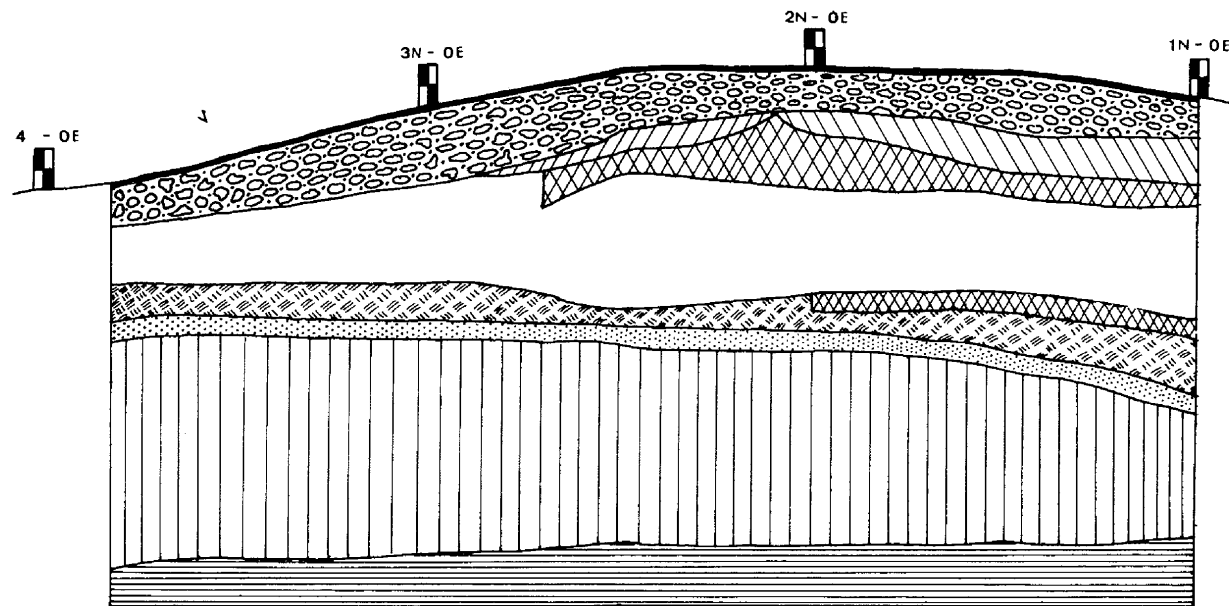
The last "structural" consideration was the location of the road that appears on early maps of the fort. The maps show this road running approximately east/west about 42 feet south of the stables to a point approximately 29 feet south of the stables to a point approximately 29 feet west of the stables where it turns north. Test trenches (Fig. 67) extending west and south from the stables' southwest corner failed to reveal any signs of this road. The soil in the trench extending south consisted of 1-2 cm of organic material (sod layer) on top of "bar" sand which is the strata underlying the cultural layer throughout the site. The appearance of the bar sand high in the profile suggests that this area may have undergone extensive alterations at some time. The soil in the trench extending west consisted of 3-4 cm of organic material on top of mottled red-yellow-brown sand (4-18 cm) separated from the lower bar sand by a discontinuous layer (.5-1 cm thick) of burnt organic material.

In order to determine how the roads were built, a test trench was excavated in an old road (now overgrown) running approximately east/west, just south of the southwest corner of the site of the Wagon Shed (Building #15), in order to compare its profile with our tests. The profile (Fig. 88) from the road revealed that a layer of gravel was laid down as the main surface for the road. This gravel was lacking in the other two test trenches and it appears that the road shown on the early maps stopped east of the corral to the south of the stables and the extension of it, as shown on the maps, was planned for future use but never established.

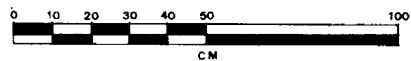
ARTIFACT REMAINS

INTRODUCTION

This section includes a description of the artifacts recovered from the four sides of the Quartermaster's Stables. They have been placed in several large and general classes, based mainly on their functions. The



PROFILE--EAST WALL OF ROAD TRENCH














- | | |
|---|---|
|  GRID STAKE |  MOTTLED RED-YELLOW-BROWN SAND |
|  SOD LAYER |  MOTTLED BLACK-BROWN-GREY SAND |
|  GRAVEL |  BURNED ORGANIC LAYER |
|  YELLOW-BROWN SAND |  MOTTLED RED-YELLOW CLAY |
|  RED-BROWN SAND |  SAND |
|  GREY-BROWN SAND | |

Fig. 88. Road profile.

remains represent the various uses the stables had during its existence. Location of material reflects various activity areas around the structure in the past. The structural remains and the artifacts will be considered together in the next chapter.

The majority of the artifacts are hardware required for building the stables and reveals no material that differs from any frame structure from this time period. It is of interest that so little non-construction material was found, although this may be related to the limited excavation which occurred so close to the walls of the building or else a tidy, exacting military administration. Table 4 contains a total artifact inventory. In the following discussion, a number in parentheses following the mention of an artifact refers to its catalog number. Copies of the field catalog, along with the artifacts, have been placed in the Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum. A complete photo log with contact sheets and all negatives are on file in the Alaska Resources Library, Anchorage.

HARDWARE

Artifacts that are related to use in the construction of the stables are included under this general heading.

Fasteners

This category includes items that functioned to bind material together.

Nails

Nails of one type or another are by far the most common artifact recovered in historic sites (Woolworth 1975:110) and the Quartermaster's Stables is no exception. Of the fasteners recovered, the greater portion (98.5%) were composed of nails of which 97.7% (2296) were wire nails (Table 5). The wire nails represented a range of sizes from <2d to >50d. Of these wire nails, common wire nails made up 91.6% of the total with 58.6% (1232) being >10d reflecting their use in heavy framing construction. The east side of the structure (ramp area) yielded 45.5% (955) of the total common wire nails collected of which 60.7% (580) were >10d. The dog kennels accounted for 40.2% (844) of the total common wire nails of which 53.1% (448)

TABLE 4. TOTAL ARTIFACT INVENTORY

Artifact Type	Sides of Stables				Total
	North	West	South	East	
A. Wood					
1. furniture leg				1	1
2. axe & hammer handle				2	2
3. wooden crate frags.			8*		8
4. bushel basket				1	1
5. tension block				1	1
B. Ceramics					
1. coarse stoneware			22*		22
2. terra cotta				13	13
C. Glass					
1. window glass					
a. 1/16"	25	7	28	221	281
b. 3/32"	182	20	1039	1423	2664
c. 1/8"	22	4	155	58	239
2. elect. insulator				2	2
3. bottle glass					
a. clear	4	5	56+	21	86
b. aqua		28	73+		101
c. amber		5	8* 4+	11	28
d. green		1	1+	2	4
e. purple				1	1
4. ashtray fragments				1	1
5. flash bulb frags.			2*	2	4
6. lamp globe frags.				182	182
D. Leather				72	72
E. Metal					
1. cartridges					
a. .303 Savage				2	2
b. 45-70 Winchester			1+		1
c. 12 gauge shell			1+	1	2
2. hardware					
a. glazing points				6	6
b. electrical wire				2	2
c. fencing wire			6*		6
d. roofing fragments	1		1*	1	3
e. roofing washers			1678+		1678
f. metal facing frags.			8*		8
g. grommets			1*		1
h. hinges			2*		2
i. sash weight				1	1

Table 4. continued

Artifact Type	Sides of Stables				Total
	North	West	South	East	
(E. Metal continued)					
j. building sign				1	1
k. nails	84	43	358+ 879*	983	2347
l. woodscrews		2	1+ 3*	5	11
m. machine screws			3+	2	5
n. carriage bolts	2				2
o. metal pins				5	5
p. wire staples			7+ 2*		9
q. eye pins			5*		5
2. personal belongings					
a. fishing line sinker				1	1
b. tobacco stamps				2	2
c. military button				1	1
3. dog & mule hardware					
a. chains	1			2	3
b. snaps			2*	2	4
c. pans			4*		4
d. buckles				2	2
e. rivets		1	3*	12	18
f. mule shoe				1	1
4. misc. household					
a. tin can fragments		6		100	106
b. cork screw				1	1
c. bottle caps				4	4
d. can openers				3	3
e. knife			1*		1
f. spoon				1	1
g. stove parts				4	4
5. misc. material					
a. oil filters			2*		2
b. crankcase plugs	1			1	2
c. banding metal			8*	3	11
d. chrome framing				1	1
e. baling wire	17	24	20* 112+	42	215
f. unidentified	2	1		72	75
F. Fauna					
a. moose	2	3	17*		22
b. snowshoe hare	1		1+	56	58
c. wolf			1+		1

Table 4. continued

Artifact Type	Sides of Stables				Total
	North	West	South	East	
(F. Fauna continued)					
d. <u>Felis domestica</u>			1+		1
e. <u>bird</u>				18	18
f. unidentified		1	1+	94	96
G. Lithic Material					
a. flakes			5* 3+		8
b. biface			1+		1
c. flaked pebble			1+		1
H. Others					
a. rubber step treads				2	2
b. linoleum	31				31
c. canvas			2*		2
d. bandana			1*		1
e. buttons				2	2
f. pens				2	2
g. corks				2	2
h. rope			2*	1	3
i. rubber gasket		1			1
j. plum/prune pit			1*		1
Total	375	152	4541	3455	8523
			1015*		
			2304+		

* recovered from the kennels

+ recovered from the shed area

were $\geq 10d$. The shed area (southeast corner of the structure) yielded 9.4% (198) of the total common wire nails of which 72.7% (144) were $\geq 10d$. The remaining areas excavated around the structure contributed 5% (105) of the total common wire nails of which 57.1% (60) were $\geq 10d$.

Other wire nails included brads (109), finishing (6), tacks (4), and roofing (75) nails. The brads, along with the 2d and 3d common wire nails, appear not to represent use in the construction of the structure, but are probably from wooden crates because of their association with the metal bindings recovered from such crates. The shed area yielded 39.4% (43) of these brads, the east side 11.9%, the kennels 28.4%, and other areas 20.2%. Roofing nails accounted for 75 of the wire nails with 94.7% of these recovered from the shed area. Only six finishing wire nails and four 3/4" tacks were recovered from the site.

Square nails accounted for only 2.3% (55) of the total nails recovered from the site. Horseshoe nails composed 81.8% (45) of these square nails with 84.4% (38) of these recovered from the shed area. Along with the horseshoe nails, there were two each of common cut nails, finishing nails, galvanized spikes (Fig. 89:b), and trunk and clout

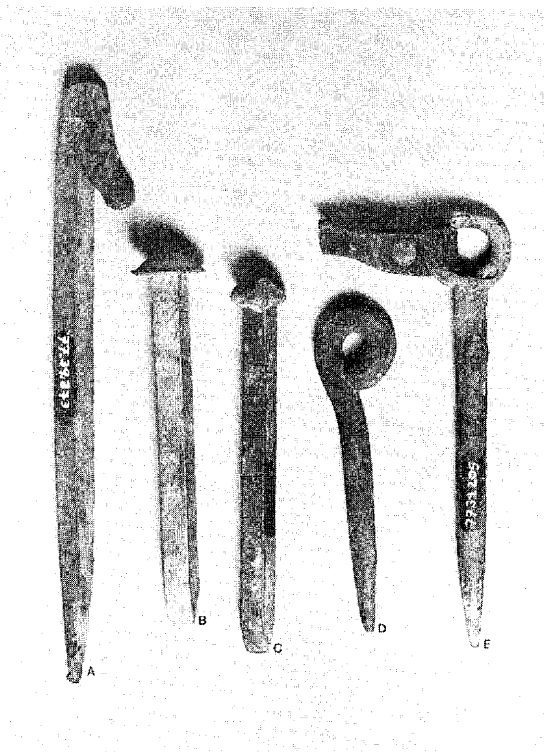


Fig. 89. Fasteners:
A--Hand-forged hooked spike;
B--Galvanized spike; C--Hook
head spike; D & E--Eye pins.
(Length of A = 22.4 cm)

nails. The hooked spike (Fig. 89:a) and hook head spike (Fig. 89:c) accounted for one each. The hooked spike was hand-forged and appears to have been meant for use as a "peg" for hanging bridles or other hardware.

Hand-made wire nails appear as early as ca. 1833 and were made in the United States since the 1850's (Fontana 1965:89) with the first machine-made wire nails occurring in France in 1855. These early forms of wire nails, however, relied on expensive Norwegian iron thus causing them to be too expensive to compete with the square nail then in common use. In 1879, the Bessemer steel wire was developed lessening the cost of manufacturing wire nails and placing them in a competitive position with square nails. By 1890 wire nails began replacing square cut nails (Ibid.) with the former taking full sway by 1902 (Fontana and Greenleaf 1962:50). Although wire nails replaced square nails, square nails are still manufactured for specific purposes.

It is of interest that 97.7% of the nails recovered from the Quartermaster's Stables, built in 1900, are wire nails which compares closely to the percentage (95.6%) of wire nails recovered from the Eagle Courthouse which was built in 1901 (Sackett 1977:12). The nails recovered from these two sites indicate "that changes in the market outside Alaska had an immediate impact on Alaskan construction activities" (Shinkwin 1977:43).

In addition to nails, other fasteners recovered from the site include woodscrews, machine screws, carriage bolts, pins, wire staples, and eye pins. Although penny weight is the general classification used for nail size, these fasteners were included in Table 5 and assigned to the penny weights denoting their size for convenience.

Eleven woodscrews were found ranging in size from 2d to 8d. Of this total, 45.5% (5) were from the east side, 9.1% (1) from the shed area, 27.3% (3) from the kennels and the remaining from other areas excavated around the structure.

The machine screws (5) ranged in size from 3d to 8d and were recovered from the shed (3) and ramp (2) areas. Along with these machine screws, two nuts and two washers were found.

Only two carriage bolts (with nuts) were found, both from other areas around the structure.

Table 5 INVENTORY OF FASTENERS

PENNY WEIGHT

[illegible]

Five metal pins came from the ramp area. These pins ranged in size from 2d to 3d with an 1/8" diameter and rounded head. Their function is unknown, but is probably like that of drift pins because of the lack of threads or any other means of attachment.

There were nine wire staples recovered from the site. Seven were 5d and were probably used in attaching wire fencing to wooden posts. The other two (9d and 10d) were found in the A series of the dog kennels. These were in the floor boards in the northeast corners of kennels A-7 and A-8 functioning as a means of tying the dogs up, probably by chain because one such staple in the stables' wall had a length of chain still attached.

Five eye pins (Fig. 89:d,e) ranged in size from 20d to 50d and appear to have been hand-forged. These were recovered from kennels A-7, B-5, C-1, and two from C-4. Like the two large wire staples, they were in the floor boards in the northeast corners of the kennels and were used in tying the dogs in the kennels. Unlike the staples, leather straps were attached to the eyes, used in fastening the dogs.

Window Glass

Window glass represents a large portion of the historic collection--a total of 3184 fragments representing three glass thicknesses of 1/16", 3/32", and 1/8" (Table 6). Traditionally, the analysis of window glass had been dealt with in terms of fragment count of these various thicknesses which can be misleading as an indication of age, as illustrated in the Sitka Russian Mission (Shinkwin 1977) and the Eagle Courthouse (Sackett 1977) reports.

Sackett (1977) has devised a method which treats total area represented by glass sherds rather than only counts of various categories of thickness. This method employs a determination of the area represented by each glass type defined by thickness. The relative importance of the different glass types at a site, represented by fragment count, assumes that each fragment is equal in size. Computation of area, by type, represented by the fragments is a better index of the relative use of the different types.

The method used in determining area represented by the glass was to weigh the glass in terms of the three thicknesses present at the site: 1/16", 3/32", and 1/8".

The largest fragment from each thickness category was measured for its area and weighed. Then its weight was divided by its area to determine the respective weight per cm^2 . After the weights per cm^2 for each thickness category were determined, the total weight of all pieces in one category of thickness was divided by its respective weight per cm^2 to determine the total area represented. The weights per cm^2 used for the Quartermaster's Stables' window glass collection is as follows: $1/16" = .47 \text{ gr/cm}^2$, $3/32" = .64 \text{ gr/cm}^2$, and $1/8" = .77 \text{ gr/cm}^2$.

The total area of window glass recovered was $13,150.54 \text{ cm}^2$ (3184 fragments) of which 76.1% ($10,012.97 \text{ cm}^2$) is composed of $3/32"$ glass, 18% (2361.72 cm^2) is $1/8"$, and only 5.9% (775.86 cm^2) is $1/16"$ glass. As an example of how fragment count may be misleading, by fragment count the $3/32"$ glass composes 83.7% (2664 fragments) of the total glass, $1/16"$ composes 8.8% (281 fragments), and $1/8"$ glass composes 7.5% (239 fragments) of the total glass. If there was a lack of knowledge concerning the time period for the stables and one were to consider window glass thickness as indicative of a time period, an earlier misleading date would be reached by using fragment counts than by using the glass area method.

Of the total window glass, 49.7% (6535.71 cm^2) was recovered from the east side of the structure. This side yielded 78.8% (611.75 cm^2) of the total $1/16"$ glass, 53.4% (5349.39 cm^2) of the total $3/32"$ glass, and 24.3% (574.57 cm^2) of the total $1/8"$ glass recovered from the site. The greater majority (81.8%) of window glass recovered from this side was that of $3/32"$ glass with the $1/16"$ glass following at 9.4% and the $1/8"$ glass at 8.8%.

The south side of the structure yielded 41.9% (5513.66 cm^2) of the total window glass recovered. This side yielded 65% (1536.11 cm^2) of the total $1/8"$ glass, 39% (3900.77 cm^2) of the total $3/32"$ glass, and 9.9% (76.78 cm^2) of the total $1/16"$ glass recovered from the site. The majority (70.7%) of glass recovered from this side was of $3/32"$ glass with the $1/8"$ glass making up 27.9% followed by $1/16"$ glass at only 1.4%.

The test pits on the north and west sides of the structure yielded 8.4% of the total window glass recovered from the site. These sides accounted for 10.6% (251.04 cm^2) of the total $1/8"$ glass, 11.3% (87.33 cm^2) of the total $1/16"$ glass, and 7.6% (762.81 cm^2) of the total $3/32"$ glass

TABLE 6. TOTAL WINDOW GLASS

Thickness	Type	Number of Fragments	Area (cm ²)	% of Area	Fragments
1/16"	Translucent	281	775.86	5.9	8.8
3/32"	Translucent	2664	10,012.97	76.1	83.7
1/8"	Translucent	239	2,361.71	18.0	7.5
	Total	3184	13,150.54	100.0	100.0

recovered. The majority (69.3%) of the glass recovered from these two sides was 3/32" glass with 1/8" glass composed of 22.8% followed by 1/16" glass at 7.9%.

All of the window glass recovered was translucent.

Dilliplane (1975:60) notes that glass thickness of 2/64" was prevalent from ca. 1820 to ca. 1840 and that 3/64" glass was common prior to 1845. After 1845 the common glass thickness was 1/16". Today's common glass thicknesses are 1/8", 3/16", and 1/4". Walker (1971:77) states that 3/32" glass was not used during the 19th century and came after the turn of the century. Because the stables and the Eagle courthouse were constructed in the first years of this century and window glass recovered from the two sites is composed mostly of 3/32" thickness, it suggests that by the turn of the twentieth century, 3/32" glass was the commonly used glass thickness, a time earlier than that suggested by Walker.

Although 1/8" glass is the common thickness for glass today, it appears that this glass recovered from the site dates to its construction and was used in the windows on the north and south sides in the areas of the mule stalls. These windows are single pane windows and probably required a thicker glass for its strength. The 1/16" and 3/32" glass probably represent glass used in the multi-pane windows found on the east and west sides of the structure.

Window Glazing Points

Six window glazing points (#545) were recovered from the east side of the stables. These points are triangular in shape and measure 1.0 cm on each side.

Window Sash Weight

A window sash weight (#466) was recovered from the southeast corner of the stables. This weight (Fig. 90:a) is cast iron (39.5 cm in length and 4.8 cm in diameter) with an eye at one end used for attaching a rope or chain. It was placed inside the window frame with the rope or chain running through a pulley at the top of the window frame and attached to the window. Through this set-up, the weight acted as a counter-balance to the window sash enabling the sash to remain open at any position.

Roofing Metal

Four pieces of roofing metal were recovered from the north side of the structure (#78), kennel A-3 (#109), ramp area (#846), and the test trench across the road ditch (#858). All of these, except the one recovered from the north side, are scrap pieces from roofing. The pieces from the north side (#7B) represent a piece of patching.

Roofing Washers

A total of 1678 lead washers were recovered from the center area of the shed on the southeast corner of the stables. These washers are 1.4 cm in diameter by .15 cm in thickness and have a .3 cm diameter hole through their centers. At one time, they were painted white on one side. In observing some of the metal roofing around the fort area, it was noted that washers like these were used with nails to fasten this roofing to a structure. Nails were driven through the washers with the latter forming a greater bearing surface for the nails. It appears that the washers represent those discarded in one general area after the removal (dog kennel roofing?) of a metal roof.

Metal Facing

Eighty-six poorly preserved fragments of metal were recovered from the kennels: 11 (#102) from kennel A-1, 24 (#105, 111 and 115) from kennel A-2, 19 (#124) from kennel A-4, 30 (#132) from kennel A-5, and 2 (#204) from kennel C-1. These fragments are from metal sheeting that was tacked to the lower portions of the interior walls of the kennels as siding. This siding only went a few feet up the sides with the remaining portions covered with canvas.



Fig. 90. A--Window sash weight; B--Mule shoe; C & D--Snaps; E--Mule blinder. (Length of D = 10.5 cm)

Canvas

Five pieces of canvas were recovered from kennels A-1 and A-8. They represent canvas that was tacked to the interior walls of the kennels and appear to have been painted white at one time. The canvas is untreated double fill #10 duck canvas.

Grommets

Five brass grommets (Fig. 91:k) were retrieved, one from the dog kennels (C-1) and the remaining from the test trench across a ditch along the road southeast of the stables. These grommets ranged in size from 2.1 cm in diameter, with a hole diameter of .9 cm, to 3.4 cm in diameter, with a hole diameter of 1.6 cm.

Along with these grommets, three steel rings ranged in size from 2.2 cm in diameter, with a hole diameter of 1.6 cm, to 2.7 cm in diameter, with a hole diameter of 1.8 cm. These metal rings are similar to those that were found used on the canvas that lined the insides of the dog kennels as grommets.

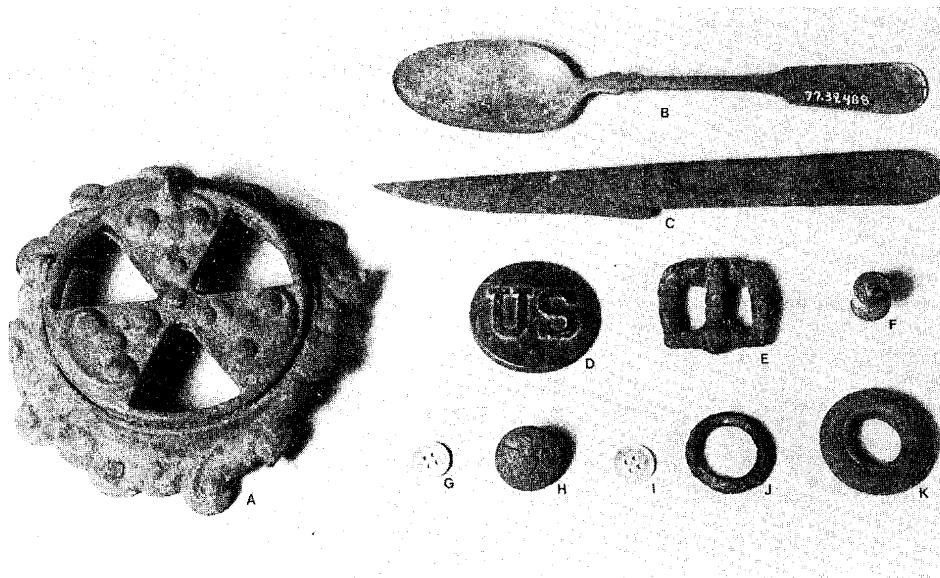


Fig. 91. A--Stove door vent; B--Spoon; C--Knife; D--U.S. buckle; E--Belt buckle; F--Rivet; G--"Mother-of-pearl" button; H--Military button; I--Plastic button; J--Steel ring used as grommet on canvas; K--Brass grommet. (Length of C = 19.1 cm)

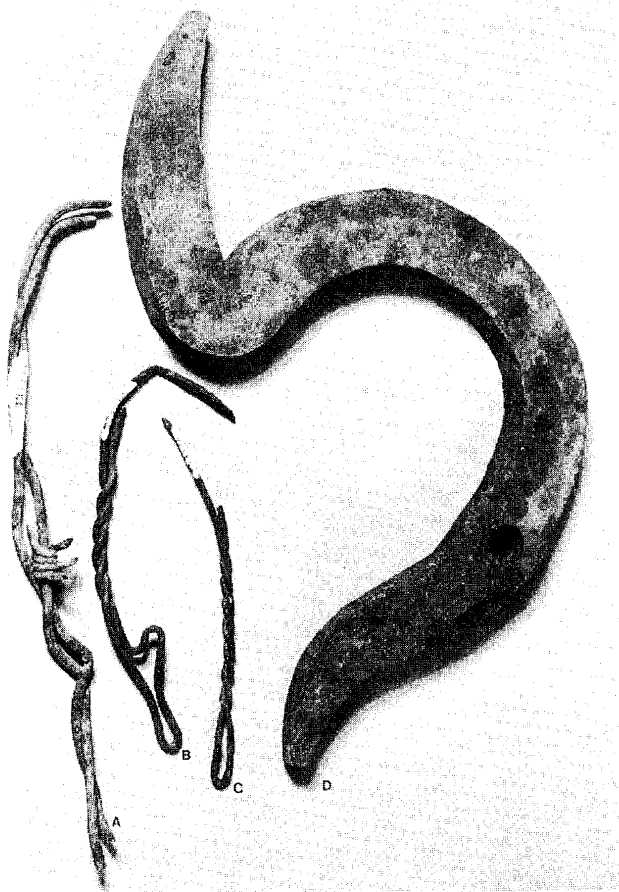


Fig. 92. A--Barbed wire;
B--Key looped baling wire;
C--Simple looped baling
wire; D--Unidentified.
(Length of A = 11.1 cm)

Wire Fencing

Six fragments of wire fencing were recovered from the kennel area. Three of these pieces (#96, 164, 859) represent parts of the "Hartman Wire Pannel Fence" that was placed around the corral in 1908. This fencing was five feet wide, of no. 12 galvanized steel wire mesh, two or three inches wide and replaced the original wooden fencing (Fig. 87).

The remaining three pieces of fencing (#108, 116) are two-strand barbed wire (Fig. 92:a). There is no mention in the quartermaster's supply records of this type of fencing.

Electrical Wire

Two strands of electrical wire were recovered from the east side of the stables. Both (#814, 834) are 3/16"

copper wire with one (#834) still retaining a woven textile insulation 5/16" in diameter. Along with the two strands of wire, a fragment (#725) of insulation, same as that on the wire, was recovered from the east side of the stables.

Electrical Insulators

Fragments from two electrical insulators were recovered from the east side of the structure. The first insulator fragment (#538) is of aqua glass and is 6 cm in diameter. This insulator has the number "4" embossed on its top. The remaining fragments (#688) are of milk glass and are too fragmented to determine original size or shape. The test trench placed across the road to the southeast of the stables yielded two fragments (#872) of an aqua glass insulator but these are also too fragmented to determine original size or shape.

Miscellaneous Wire

Three "clumps" of poorly preserved wire and two strands (#810, 562) of thin wire (1/32" in diameter) were recovered from the east side of the stables.

Terra Cotta

Numerous fragments of orange terra cotta (#322, 428, 493, 468, 527, 547, 561, 594, 597, 621, 671, 768) were recovered from the east side of the structure. These fragments are probably from chimney elbows used in the stables. The quartermaster supply records of 1899 and 1902 list orders for terra cotta chimney elbows but do not specify where they were to be used.

Rubber Step Treads

Two fragments (#585, 747) of step treads were recovered from the east side of the stables. These fragments are black and are pieces from the step edges.

Linoleum

Thirty-one fragments of salmon-colored linoleum (#2, 13) were recovered from the test pits on the north side of the stables. The place and use for this linoleum is unknown and there is no evidence of use of this material in the stables.

Hinges

The kennels yielded two hinges. One (#122) is a broken hinge from the stables' windows with a base plate measuring 4.5 cm by 9.7 cm. This hinge was attached to the window by four woodscrews and was recovered from kennel A-4.

The second hinge was recovered from kennel B-1 and is the type that was used on the kennels' doors. The fixed part of the hinge measures 2.6 cm by 7.5 cm and was attached to the door frame by three 8-d common wire nails. The hinge part attached to the door (by four 8-d common wire nails) is triangular in shape, 13.2 cm long, 3.1 cm wide at the pivot point, and 1.3 cm wide at the end point.

Building Sign

A sign used by the Alaska Road Commission was recovered from the east side of the stables. This sign is metal, made from a "UNION 76" five gallon oil can, and has "ARC/3192" painted in black letters on a white background. The "ARC" stands for the Alaska Road Commission with "3192" representing the building number while the stable was used by the commission.

MISCELLANEOUS HOUSEHOLD ARTIFACTS

Items included under this general heading are those that are associated with the domestic side of life.

Bottle Glass

Three complete bottles were found around the structure --two beer bottles and one medicine bottle. The beer bottle (#110) was recovered from the dog kennels on the south side of the stables. This bottle (Fig. 93:a) is amber glass and post-dates 1900, having a seam extending its entire length (Dilliplane 1975:58). The seam is a Type A and the bottle (Fig. 93:a) has a Type A crown lip (Adams, Gaw, and Leonhardy 1975:88, 90). The second beer bottle (#268) is an "Olympia" beer bottle (Fig. 93:b) that is of recent deposit in the site in the shed area. It is amber glass and has a paper label. A medicine bottle (#4) was recovered from the north side of the structure. It (Fig. 93:c) is of clear glass with "Duraglas" embossed on its side and base along with "16 1 7" on the base. Because the seam extends the entire length of the bottle, it post-

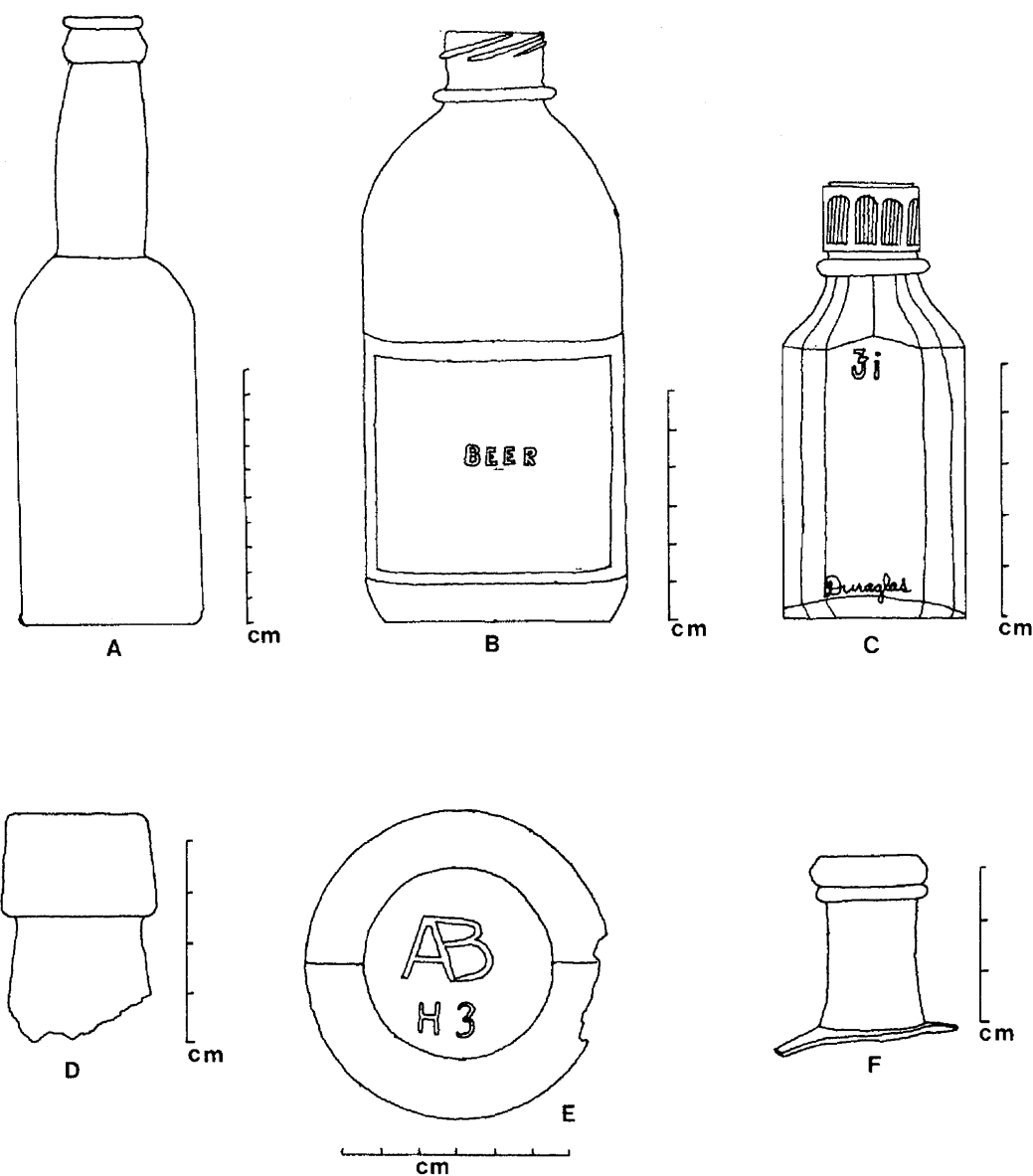


Fig. 93. Bottles: A--Amber beer bottle post-dates 1900; B--Olympia beer bottle; C--Medicine bottle; D--Cork "A" lip type mouth 1860-1880; E--Beer bottle base; F--V-collar lip type medicine bottle 1880-1890.

TABLE 7. DISTRIBUTION OF BOTTLE GLASS

Glass Type	Area					Total
	North	East	West	Kennels	Shed	
Clear	4	21	5	-	56	86
Aqua	-	-	28	-	73	101
Amber	-	11	5	8	4	28
Green	-	2	1	-	1	4
Purple	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total	4	35	39	9	134	220

dates 1900 (Dilliplane 1975:58). A plastic screw cap is present with this bottle.

Remaining bottle glass in the collection is fragmentary and is composed of aqua (45.9%), clear (39.1%), amber (12.7%), green (1.8%), and purple (.5%) glass. Table 7 shows the areas from which each glass type was recovered.

Seven of these fragments (#65, 134, 317, 433, 436, 441, 450) are from the mouth portion of bottles representing seven individual bottles (three aqua, three clear, and one amber). Five of these fragments were recovered from the shed area. The kennels and west sides each yielded one. Two of these mouth fragments (#65, 317) are of the cork A lip type (Adams, Gaw and Leonhardy 1975:89), as illustrated in Fig. 93:d, and probably fall within a time period of 1860-1880 because the stem stops below the bottle mouth (Dilliplane 1975:58). Both of these mouth fragments are of aqua glass. One fragment (#134) is of the V-Collar Lip Type (Adams, Gaw and Leonhardy 1975:89) probably falling within a time period of 1880-1890 because the seam ends within 1/4" of the bottle lip. This fragment (Fig. 93:f) is of amber glass and may represent a medicinal bottle having a rectangular body form. Another fragment (#441) has a patent lip, square and flat on top (The American Historic Catalog Collection 1971:7). It is of clear glass and probably dates from 1860-1880. The remaining identifiable mouth fragment is of the double ring type (Ibid.) composed of amber glass from an unknown time period. The remaining two fragments are unidentifiable.

Five fragments represent base portions of individual bottles. One (#391) is a nearly complete base (Fig. 93:e) from a beer bottle (Adams, Gaw and Leonhardy 1975:117, 242). This base has a basemark "AB" monogram followed by an alpha-numeric code "H3" and is of aqua glass. This base was recovered from the shed area. Two fragments were recovered from the kennels area, both of amber glass. One (#134), of unknown diameter, has a basemark "BH" monogram. The other has a diameter of 3.2 cm with a basemark "2" probably representing the bottle size code. The east and west sides of the stables each yielded one base fragment of undetermined dimensions and no base marks. The fragment from the east side is of amber glass and that from the west side is of aqua glass.

The remaining bottle glass are body fragments representing bottles having wall thicknesses that range from .5 mm to 4 mm. Only two have raised lettering on them; "IN" (#417) and "NO RETURN" (#807), both on amber glass.

Bottle Caps and Corks

Four metal bottle caps of various types were recovered from the site. Two are similar to those used today with the exception that the interiors are cork. These caps were recovered from the east side (#674) of the stables and the test trench placed across the road ditch (#857). Along with these two complete caps, one (#675) fragment (interior cork portion) was recovered from the east side. The fourth bottle cap was recovered from the east side of the stables and is a twist-off type. This cap (#542) is 3.3 cm in diameter and .8 cm long. Along with these bottle caps, one (#632) punch-out seal similar to those used on "Blazo" cans was recovered from the east side. This seal is 2.5 cm in diameter.

Two bottle stoppers were found on the east side of the stables. The first is a cream colored rubber stopper (#474) that is 2.2 cm in diameter and .6 cm thick. The number "2" is stamped on its top. The second stopper is a cork (#504) that is 1.8 cm in diameter and 1.2 cm thick.

Cork Screw

The tip portion (#404) of a cork screw was recovered from the east side of the stables. This cork screw is metal with a shaft diameter of 1/8", shaped into a spiral 3/8" in diameter.

Glass Ashtray

A fragment (#577) of a glass (clear) ashtray was recovered from the east side of the stables.

Lamp Globes

The east side of the stables yielded 182 fragments of lamp globes. All these fragments were recovered from below the ramp within two m of the stables' east wall which suggest that they were deposited in the area while back-filling occurred after completion of the structure.

These fragments represent those from both indoor and outdoor lamps (Fig. 94). Three fragments (#656) fitted together to form a partial base. This base is 14 cm in diameter and appears to be similar to that globe shown in Fig. 103 (C. L. Andrews Collection #AD69) dated 1905. One other fragment of a base is from an outdoor lamp but suggests a more globular shape.

The remainder of the glass globes are from table lamp chimneys. Two fragments are base fragments that are 4.5 cm

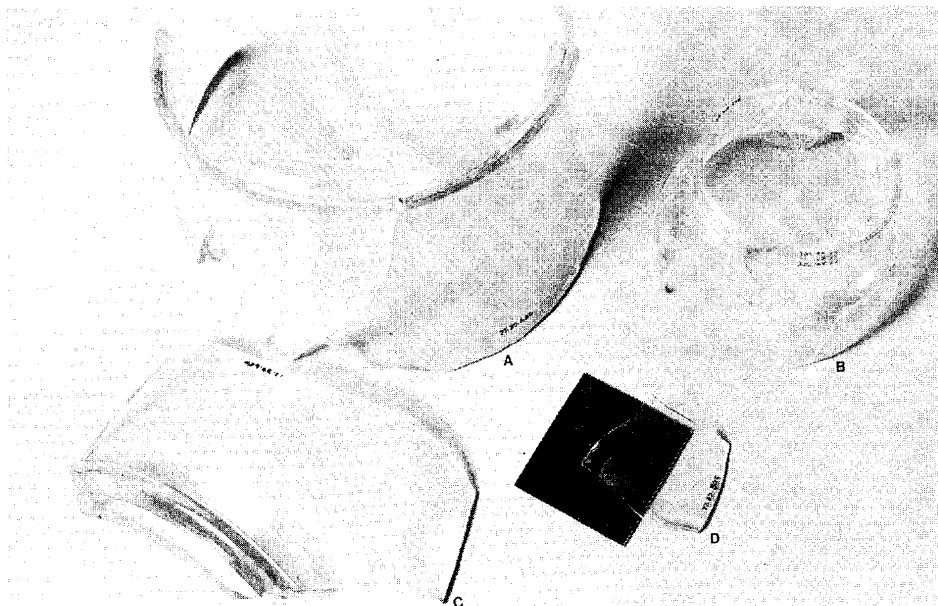


Fig. 94. Lamp globes: A & C--Outdoor globes; B & D--Indoor globes. (Length of B = 13.2 cm)

and 6.4 cm in diameter. The remaining globe fragments are body portions and are too fragmented to determine shape or size. One (#802) has "QUEEN" (Fig. 94:d) etched on its outside surface which probably represents a trade name.

Ceramics

Under this heading, only one coarse stoneware crock was recovered from the site. This crock is incomplete and was reconstructed from 17 fragments (#152) recovered below the foundation stringers of kennel A-7. A total of 22 fragments was found with five (#151) of these not fitting to those forming the reconstructed crock. These fragments, however, appear to be part of the same crock, but of the base portion which was not recovered. Those pieces that were put together represent the mouth and body portions (Fig. 95). The size of this crock is 17.5 cm in diameter and 1.2 cm thick at the mouth with a body diameter of 25 cm and .75 cm thick. The crock has two lug handles (Cardew 1969:116) towards the shoulder for ease in carrying. It is brown in color on the interior and cream colored on the exterior with a clear glazing on both interior and exterior. The deposition of this crock, because of its provenience below the kennel structure, would have been sometime prior to the construction of the A kennels.

Tin Cans

Various poorly preserved fragments of tin cans were recovered from the west (#44, 49, 72) and east side (#422, 467, 597, 658, 718, 762, 767, 841) of the stables. Because of the poor state of preservation, the majority are unidentifiable as to type of can or size. The few end pieces that are identifiable are of the open-top type which became prominent in 1922 although they began replacing the hole-in-top cans in 1902 (Fontana and Greenleaf 1962:73).

Can Openers

Three can openers of the key type (#492, 551, 838), that come attached to the can for ease in opening, were recovered from the east side of the stables. The key method for opening cans was developed in 1895 and made the open-top can development feasible (Fontana and Greenleaf 1962:70).

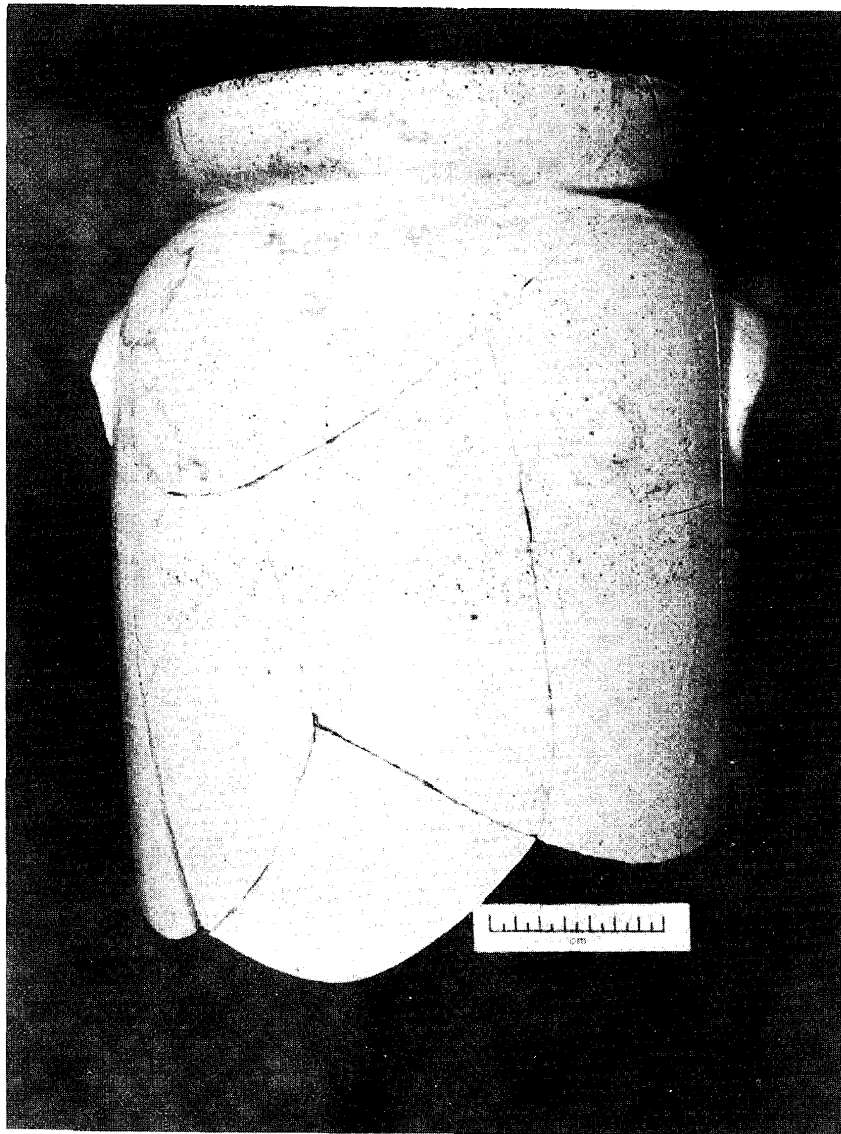


Fig. 95. Coarse stoneware crock.

Furniture Leg Wheel

One wheel (#766) was recovered from the east side of the structure. This wheel is wooden, having a diameter of 4 cm and a thickness of 2.1 cm. The frame that the wheel is attached to is metal with a swivel post for attachment to the leg of a piece of furniture, possibly a desk chair or cot. Military cots presently stored in the quarter-master's building have similar leg wheels.

Knife

A knife (#121), 19.1 cm long, was recovered from kennel A-4. This knife (Fig. 91:c) is made completely of steel, both blade and handle formed from one piece.

Spoon

A tablespoon (#488) was recovered from the southeast corner of the stables. On the back of the spoon's (Fig. 91:b) handle "A-1 NICKLE SILVER 210" is stamped.

Stove Parts

Three variously shaped stove handles were recovered from the east side of the structure. All three are of cast iron. The first (#669) is a small knob type handle which is similar to those found on stove door vents. It is 2 cm long and is pear-shaped having a large diameter of 1.2 cm and a smaller diameter of 0.8 cm. The second handle is similar in shape to a bottle opener. It (#461) is 9.5 cm long with a shaft that is 0.6 cm in diameter and flattened to a point at one end. The handle portion is oval in shape and has a measurement of 3 cm by 3.5 cm. It appears that this also represents a control knob for a stove vent. The last handle (#587) is incomplete consisting of a shaft 0.8 cm in diameter by 6.5 cm in length. Midway on the shaft is a winged part that is 2.5 cm in length and flares from 1 cm to 2.5 cm in width.

Along with these handles, a cast iron stove vent (#834) was recovered from the east side. This vent (Fig. 91:a) is 8.6 cm in diameter with three triangular openings that are adjustable by a facing plate in order to control the amount of air draft entering the stove. This vent is from the stove's door.

DOG AND MULE HARDWARE

Items included under this general heading are those that are associated with the care of or used by the dogs and mules that were kept in and around the stables during the military's use of the structure.

Dog Pans

Four dog pans were recovered from the kennels; two from A-4 and two from B-4. Three of these pans were made from five gallon square fuel type cans. The two (#125) from kennel A-4 are cans that were cut in half longitudinally (Fig. 96) with the edges turned on themselves to eliminate any sharp edges. The spouts on these cans were brazed closed to form a watertight container. The one five gallon can (#188) used for constructing the pan recovered from kennel B-4 differs from those found in A-4 in that it was cut along the horizontal axis with the bottom half used as the pan. The cut edges were turned on themselves to eliminate sharp edges. The fourth pan recovered is an

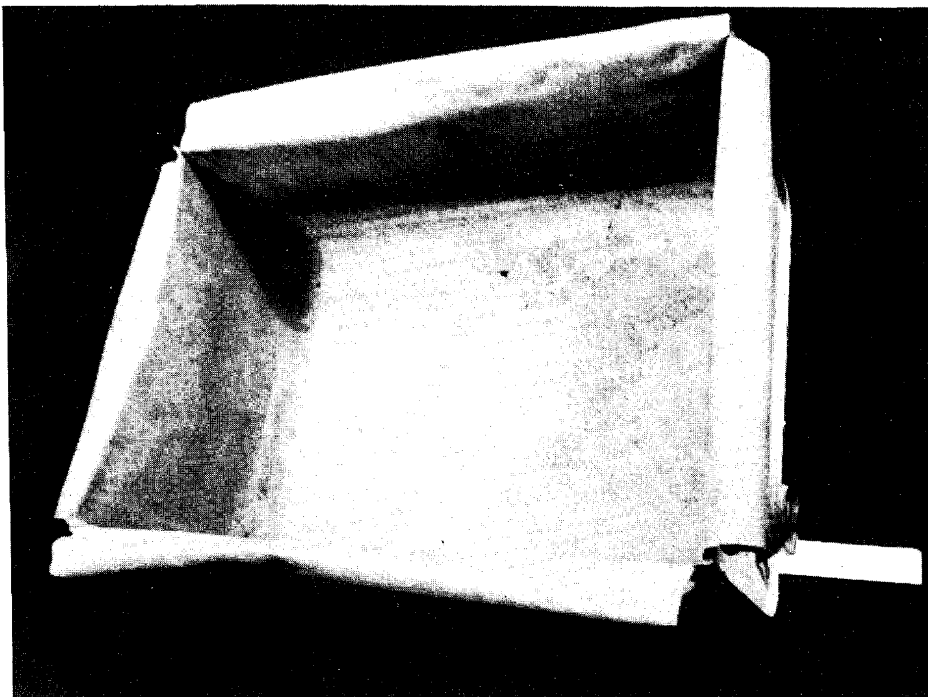


Fig. 96. Feeding pan made from a five-gallon square fuel type can.

actual metal pan. This pan (#187) was recovered from kennel B-4 and measures 20 cm by 38 cm wide with a depth of 5.5 cm. It may represent those that were used in feeding the dogs with the three pans made from five gallon cans representing water pans.

Chains

Three lengths of chain were recovered from around the structure. The first (#11) was from the test pits on the north side of the stables. This chain has snaps on each end and probably represents a dog chain. The second (#808) was recovered from the east side of the stables and is probably representative of some use not necessarily involving dogs. The third (#497) was also recovered from the east side. This chain is only a couple of links long and had a hook on one end, suggesting that it may have been used for some harnessing function.

Snaps

Four harness snaps were recovered; two from the dog kennels (A-4) and two from the east side. The two snaps (#130) from the kennels are of the same size and type; 10.5 cm long with a base of 6 cm wide (Fig. 90:d). The snaps from the east side of the structure represent two sizes. One (#845) is the same as those from the kennels and the other (#364) is of the same style, but smaller (Fig. 90:c).

Mule Shoe

One mule shoe (#512) was recovered from the east side of the stables. This shoe (Fig. 90:b) is 15 cm long and 11 cm wide.

Blinder

A mule blinder (#854) was recovered from below the stables' floor boards inside the stables. This blinder was retrieved by the BLM stabilization crew while excavating the northwest corner of the stables. The blinder (Fig. 90:e) is made of leather and felt.

Leather

Various fragments of leather were recovered, all of which came from the east side of the stables. Thirty-seven

(#469, 490, 491, 506, 513, 534, 572, 592, 595, 601, 652, 660, 742) are of various shapes that appear to be the by-products of harness mending. Twenty fragments (#442, 563, 657, 681, 730, 735) are unidentifiable because of their poor state of preservation. One piece of leather (#719) appears to be a billfold cover and has stitching on the outside forming a simple floral design. The remaining leather fragments (14 pieces--#452, 489, 505, 555, 595, 620, 657, 670, 719, 736, 755, 764) represent parts of harnesses and/or belts.

Buckles

Two buckles were recovered from the ramp area on the east side of the structure. The first (753) is similar to a belt buckle (Fig. 91:e) and is 3.6 cm square. The second (779) is military issue and is 4.1 cm in diameter. The face of this buckle (Fig. 91:d) has "US" embossed on it. It presumably is from a bridle.

Rivets

A total of eight complete (Fig. 91:f) and eight partial rivets were recovered around the structure. All but four of these came from the ramp area on the east side of the stables. One was recovered from the west side and three from the dog kennels.

These rivets were used in leather and varied in size from a length of .8 cm to 1.2 cm. All had the same stem diameter of .5 cm. Five were still attached to leather pieces, two of which were used to attach dog leashes to the eye pins found in the kennels. All the rivets are made of brass.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Items not necessarily associated with construction of the structure or activities that may be associated with equipment or care of dogs or mules are included under this general heading. They represent personal possessions of people working around the structure.

Bandana

Kennel A-1 yielded one red bandana (#91) with a white and black design. This bandana was recovered from the surface and, because of its good state of preservation

and provenience, probably represents a recent deposit on the site.

Buttons

Three buttons were recovered--all from the ramp area on the east side of the structure. One metal button (#691), 2.1 cm in diameter with a convex face, has the Seal of the U. S. embossed on it (Fig. 91:h). The back of this button is flat and has a metal eye for attachment to the garment.

One button (#539) is of translucent plastic having a diameter of 1.3 cm. It (Fig. 91:i) has four holes in its center for sewing it to the garment. The remaining button (#470) is made from "mother-of-pearl" and also has four holes for attachment purposes (Fig. 91:g). The diameter of this button is 1.2 cm.

Pens

Two pens were recovered from the east side of the stables. The first (#626) is a pen quill for ink pen tips that are changeable and probably was deposited in the site during the military's use of the structure. The second pen (#812) is a ballpoint pen and has the inscription "SCRIPTO . OFFICE PEN . MED . T-180" on its side. This pen, recovered from the surface, is probably of recent deposit on the site.

Fishing Line Sinker

One tear-drop shaped lead fishing line sinker (#677) was recovered from the east side of the stables. This sinker is 1.6 cm in length and .7 cm in diameter, weighing 2.3 grams.

Flash Bulbs

Fragments of a camera flash bulb were recovered from kennel C-1 (205) and the east side (544) of the stables. These flash bulb fragments are glass with a blue colored plastic coating and have "SYLVANIA / P25" printed on them. These fragments probably were deposited on the site in 1975 when BLM inspected and photographed the structure's foundations.

Tobacco Stamps

Two tin tags, commonly known as "tobacco stamps" (Morlan 1972:19) were recovered from the east side of the stables. These stamps (#469, 631) are 1.7 cm in diameter with paired tab-type fasteners on their margins which were planted into plug tobacco for sale commercially. One stamp (#496) is orange in color and has "Climax" printed on it in back.

Tin tags first appeared on plug tobacco in 1870, manufactured by the Lorillard Company of New York and New Jersey (Heimann 1960:135, 136). The sales of plug tobacco peaked in 1897 and the tin tags' appearance on the plug served as a "trademark identification and some assurance of consistent quality" (Heimann 1960:137) and could be used as premium tokens that were redeemable for prizes or cash.

MUNITIONS

A total of three rifle cartridge cases and two shotgun shells were recovered from the site. All of these were from the shed and east side areas of the stables.

The three rifle cases were manufactured by the Winchester Repeating Arms Company (W.R.A.Co.) in New Haven, Connecticut. Two (#780, 813) of these cases (Fig. 97:a) are .303 Savage caliber. They are bottlenecked with a length of two inches and are of the medium to high power center-fire type closely approaching the .30-'06 in ballistic characteristics (Johnson and Haven 1943:115) using smokeless powder.

The remaining cartridge case (#457) is a .45-70 rimmed straight-cased government issue (Johnson and Haven 1943:50; Barnes 1976:63). This cartridge (Fig. 97:b) is a center-fire type and has a total length of 2.105 inches. The .45-70 was adopted by the U.S. military in 1873, used in the Springfield "Trap Door" rifles and 1886 Winchesters, and used until 1892 when it was replaced by the .30-40 Krag for military purposes (Barnes 1976:63). The .45-70 was also a popular cartridge for sporting use and is still produced today even though no rifles chambered for this cartridge have been commercially available since about the early 1930's (Ibid.). A pencil stub (5 cm long) was found in this cartridge. The cartridge was crimped around the pencil apparently used as a holder in order to prolong the pencil's use.

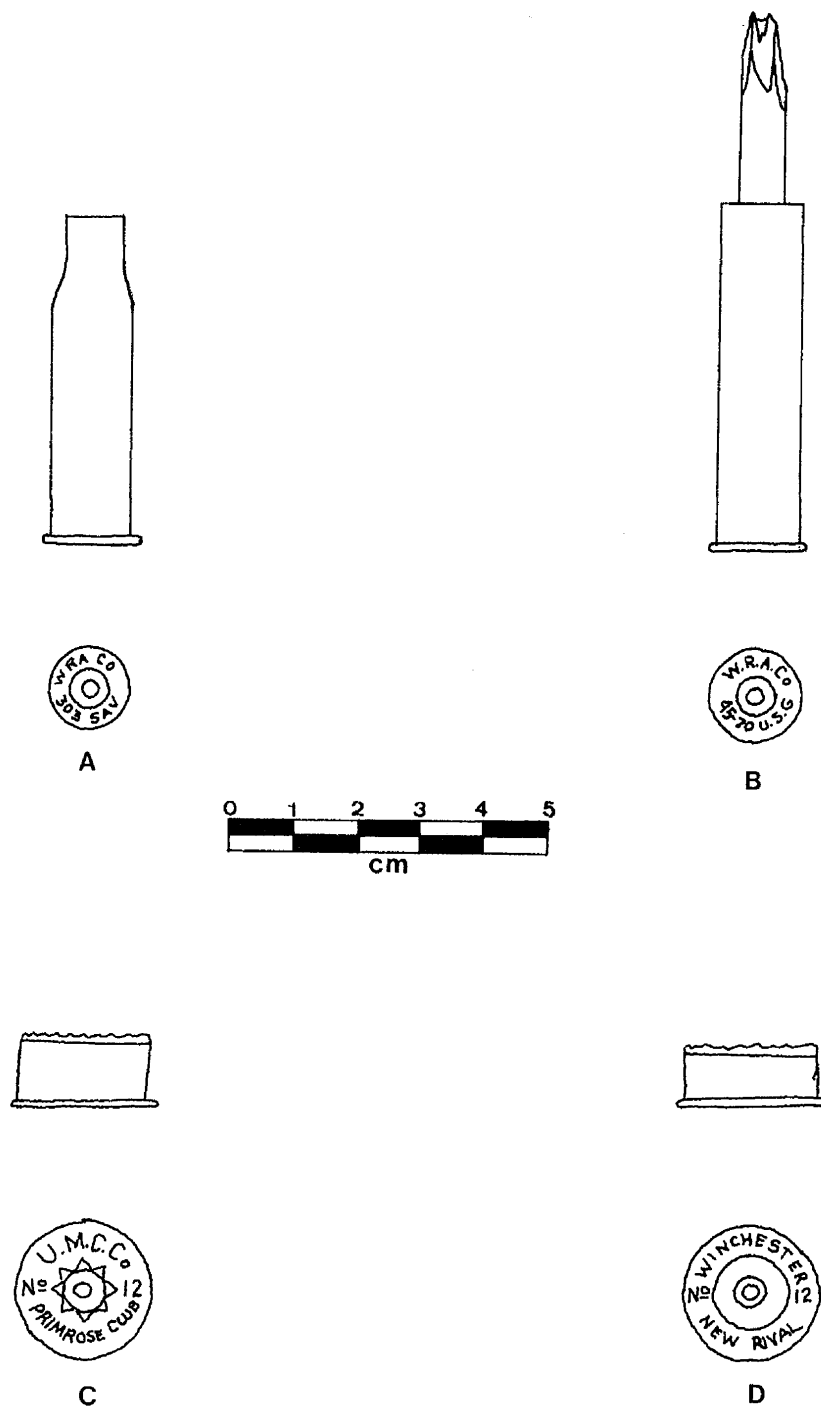


Fig. 97. Munitions: A--.303 Savage, W.R.A. Co.; B--45-70 government issue with pencil stub; C--12 gauge Union Metallic Corporation primrose club shotgun shell; D--W.R.A. Co. 12 gauge new rival shotgun shell.

Two shotgun shells complete the munitions recovered from the stables. One shell (#613) is a 12 gauge "Primrose Club" (Fig. 97:c) manufactured by the Union Metallic Corporation (U.M.C.Co.). The Union Metallic Corporation was established in 1867, manufacturing munitions under this name until 1902 when it merged with the Remington Arms (Ackerman 1968:31). This time period places the deposit of this shell in the site during the military's use of the stables.

The remaining shotgun shell (#426) was manufactured by the Winchester Repeating Arms Company and is a 12 gauge "New Rival." This shell (Fig. 97:d) is illustrated by Johnson and Haven (1943:194) as a modern military and police shell and may correspond to use by the military during the fort's occupation.

MISCELLANEOUS MATERIAL

This is a general catch-all heading including those items that do not fit neatly under any of the other headings.

Cloth Bag

A small cloth bag was recovered from below the stable's floorboards by the BLM stabilization crew while excavating the interior northwest corner of the stables. This bag is 13 cm by 18 cm in size with the open end closable by a drawstring. Inside the bag are fragments of cardboard that are green, white, and black in color. On one piece, the word "EDISON / S-3" is printed suggesting that the cardboard and bag were used to hold electrical tubes.

Rope

Three pieces of rope were recovered; two from the dog kennels and one from the east side. The rope (#641) from the east side is a 1/2 inch three-strand hemp rope that is 26 cm long. The rope (#155) from kennel A-8 is a 3/8 inch three-strand cotton rope which appears to be associated with the canvas that was used to line the interior of the kennels. The last length of rope (#90) was from kennel A-1 and is a 1/2 inch three-strand hemp rope.

Wooden Handles

Two wooden handles were recovered from the east side of the stables. The first handle (#798), from the surface, is the type generally used for claw hammers. Because of its provenience, this handle probably reflects the period when the stables were used by the Alaska Road Commission.

The second handle (#655) is that of an axe handle. It was found below the ramp and was probably used during the military's use of the structure. The handle is only half its original length and has its shortened end carved to a blunt point which probably reflects its use in another manner once its function as an axe handle ceased, possibly due to breakage.

Wooden Crates

Parts of wooden crates were recovered from the kennel area. Seven wooden slats (#136), 0.6 cm thick and ranging from 4 to 8.6 cm in width, and incomplete in length, were found in kennel A-5. These slats represent sidings from wooden crates and have "Q.M. DEPARTMENT / FORT EGBERT, ALASKA" (Fig. 98:a) or "QUARTERMASTER / FORT EGBERT, ALASKA" (Fig. 98:b) stenciled in black paint on them.

Kennel B-4 yielded two wooden end pieces of crates (#189). These end pieces are 2 cm by 23 cm by 26 cm. Attached to these pieces (Fig. 99), by means of 2d and 3d common wire nails, are semi-perforated metal bands (0.1 cm thick by 1.3 cm wide) that attached the sides of the crates to the ends. Fragments of this type of metal banding were recovered in various areas about the structure; east side--one fragment (#340), kennel B-1--one fragment (#191), kennel C-1--one fragment (#204), and kennel C-5--six fragments (#234). All these fragments had 2d and 3d common wire nails driven through them.

Wooden Bushel Basket

Fragments of a wooden bushel basket (#605) were recovered from the east side of the stables. These fragments were found below the ramp and were part of the fill around the structure resulting from its construction.

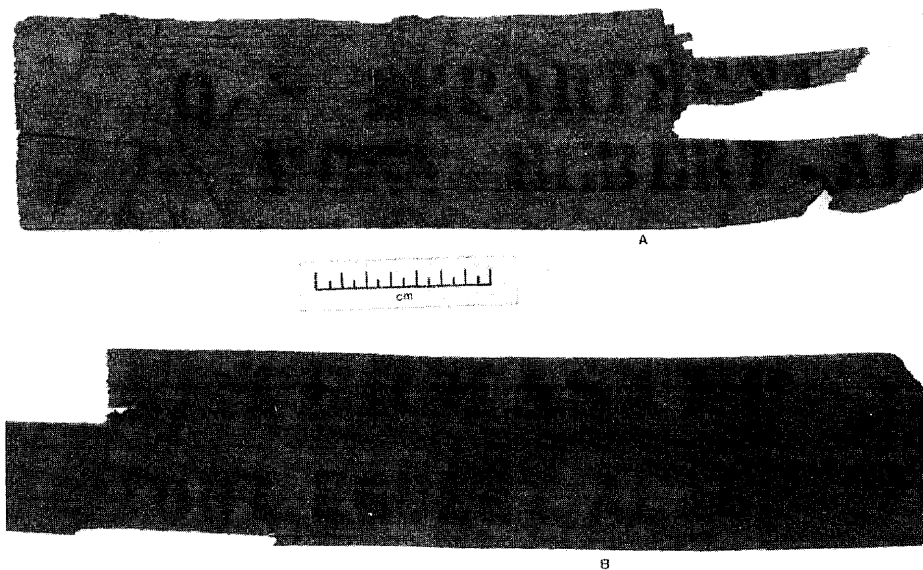


Fig. 98. Sidings from wooden crates.

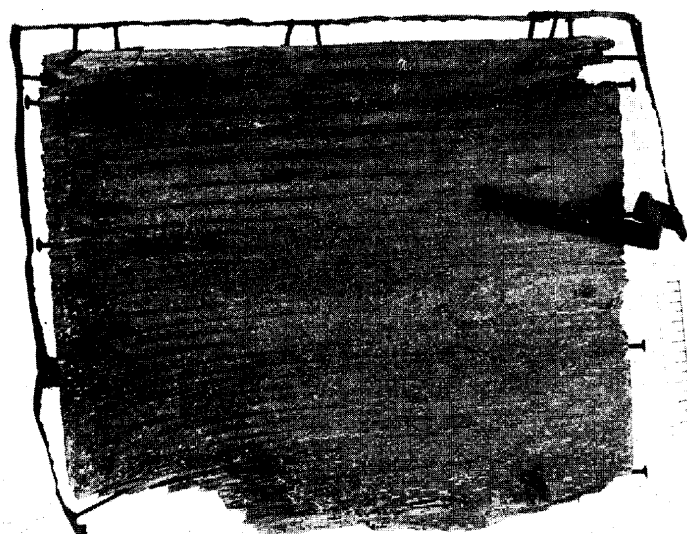


Fig. 99. End piece from wooden crate.

Wood Block

A block of wood (#809), measuring 3 cm by 3 cm by 14.5 cm, was recovered from the east side of the stables. This block has two 1.2 cm diameter holes drilled through it, one drilled straight through and the other drilled at an angle (approx. 60°). This wooden block appears to be the type that is used in keeping tension on rope guylines.

Banding Metal

Two pieces (#516) of metal, 0.18 cm thick by 2 cm wide, were recovered from the east side. These pieces are similar to those used as bands on the wooden crates. However, these are of heavier metal and probably represent bands for larger crates or barrels.

Oil Filters

Two truck oil filters were recovered from kennel A-1. The first (#89) is only the interior cardboard portion of the filter and the second (#88) is a complete filter with both the cardboard interior and metal exterior existing. These filters are "FRAM" oil filters and probably reflect the stables' use as a maintenance shop by the Alaska Road Commission.

Crankcase Plugs

Two metal plugs from the crankcase of engines were recovered, one (#460) from the east side and one (#24) from a test pit on the north side of the structure. The plug from the east side is 2.2 cm in diameter and the one from the test pit is 2.6 cm in diameter. Both of these plugs were probably deposited in the site during the Alaska Road Commission's use of the stables.

Rubber Gasket

A rubber gasket (#33) was recovered from the west side of the structure. This gasket has an inside diameter of 10.6 cm and an outside diameter of 11.6 cm, with a thickness of .2 cm. Deposit of the gasket probably occurred during the Alaska Road Commission's use of the structure.

Chrome Window Frame

A length of automotive chrome window framing (#575) was recovered from the east side of the stables. Deposit on the site probably occurred after the early 1950's when the Taylor Highway was completed to Eagle.

Baling Wire

Over 200 pieces of 1/8" wire that appears to be baling wire were recovered from the site. A number of these are end pieces which form two types of loops for attachment of some type. The first loop type (Fig. 92:c) is a simple loop; the wire end has been simply bent 180° and twisted around the main body of the wire forming an oval loop. The second loop type (Fig. 92:b) is in somewhat of a key shape. The breakdown for the recovery of the baling wire in terms of area around the stables is as follows:

North Side

The test pits on the north side of the structure yielded only 7.9% (17) of the total count. Of these, three have looped ends; one of the simple loops and two of the key-shaped loops.

Kennels

The dog kennels yielded 9.2% of the total number of pieces recovered from the site. Of these twenty, eight are looped end pieces; two are simple looped and six are key looped.

West Side

Only 11.2% (24) of the total wire pieces was recovered from the west side of the stables. Of these, eight are loop ends; three of the simple looped type and five of the key type.

East Side

The east side of the stables accounted for 19.5% (42) of the total wire recovered. Twenty are end pieces; eight of which are of the simple loop type and twelve of the key loop type.

Shed Area

The shed area accounted for the greatest (52.2%--112 pieces) proportion of the baling wire recovered. Twenty-four of these were end pieces of which eight are of the simple type and sixteen are of the key type.

Plum/Prune Pit

One plum/prune pit (#194) was recovered from kennel B-1.

Metal Hook

One metal hook (#514) was recovered from the east side of the stables. It is made from a metal rod 0.7 cm in diameter and is 4.6 cm long and 2.8 cm wide. At the opposite end of the hook is an eye for attachment. This eye is 1.6 cm in diameter with a 0.5 cm diameter hole.

Unidentified Material

1) A fragment of what appears to be the cutting edge of a backhoe bucket (#5) was recovered from the north side of the stables. This fragment was cut by a torch. Its deposition probably occurred during the A.R.C.'s use of the stables.

2) A metal rod (#17), 1.82 cm in diameter and 21.5 cm long, was recovered from the north side. It was cut by a torch, suggesting its deposit in the site during the A.R.C.'s use of the structure.

3) The east side of the stables yielded 70+ fragments of metal varying from sheeting to rods, that are unidentifiable due to their poor state of preservation.

4) Two metal tubes (#458, 478) were recovered from the southeast corner of the stables. They are identical, 3.8 cm long with an inside diameter of 0.9 cm and outside diameter of 1.0 cm.

5) One brass (#376) object of unidentified function was uncovered from the east side. It is 9.5 cm long and 1.8 cm in diameter. A portion (1.7 cm) of the object is tubed with the remainder (7.8 cm), which was previously tubed, cut in half lengthwise. The portion that is tubed has an inside diameter of 1.1 cm. At the opposite end of

the tubing, a hole 1.0 cm in diameter was drilled through the siding. This object is similar to those used for mounting wooden dowels.

6) The west side yielded one metal object (#37) that is unidentified. It (Fig. 92:d) appears to be from a piece of machinery of some type.

LITHIC MATERIAL

A small collection of lithic material was recovered from the south side of the stables. All was found from areas disturbed by the construction of the stables and/or areas that appear to have been filled. Because of these contexts, it all appears to represent secondary deposits.

The bulk of this material consisted of eight flakes (Fig. 100:b). Stone types include: basaltic glass (#565), devitrified obsidian (#228, 352), and chert (#219, 401). All of this debitage is of interior flakes with six (#219, 228, 352, 401) representing fine retouch flakes.

One biface fragment (#280, Fig. 100:a) recovered from the shed area is of chert and measures 3.5 cm long, 2.7 cm wide, 1.0 cm thick, and weighs 9.4 gr.



Fig. 100. Lithic material: A--Biface fragment; B--Flake; C--Retouched quartz pebble. (Length of A = 3.4 cm)

The remaining lithic piece is a quartz pebble (#405) that has been flaked on one end. This pebble (Fig. 100:c) is 3.6 cm long, 2.5 cm wide, 1.5 cm thick, and weighs 20.8 gr.

FAUNAL REMAINS

Osteological remains included those of moose, wolf, snowshoe hare, cat, and unidentified bird. These were recovered throughout the site and probably, with the exception of moose, represent deposit through natural causes other than by humans. The majority of moose remains was recovered from the A and C dog kennels and show some signs of butchering. Very few of these, however, show signs of having been exposed to gnawing by dogs, and, therefore, must represent human trash. Their provenience below the kennel floors probably indicates disposal in the area prior to the construction of the kennels and/or use of the area for the keeping of dogs. The total faunal inventory recovered is presented in Table 8.

TABLE 8. FAUNAL REMAINS

Cat. No.	Bone Type	Animal	Location	Natural	Complete	Partial	Gnawed	Butchered
8	cervical vert.	moose	13-14N/ 38-39E	X		X		
9	cervical vert.	moose	13-14N/ 38-39E	X		X		
47	left innominate	snowshoe hare	0-1S/3-4W	X		X		
60	right astragalus	moose	0-1S/8-9W	X		X		
63	right tibia	moose	0-1S/10-11W			X		X
64	epiphysis	unident.	0-1S/10-11W	X		X		
83	ulna	moose	17-18S/1-2E			X		X
84	long bone frag.	unident.	17-18S/1-2E	X		X		
117	right acetabulum	moose	kennel A-3			X		X
139	axis vertebra	moose	kennel A-5			X		X
140	unident. frag.	unident.	kennel A-7			X	X	X
148	proximal tibia epiphysis	moose	kennel A-7			X		X
160	left calcaneum	moose	kennel A-9	X		X		
161	right astragalus	moose	kennel A-9	X		X		
236	hind cannon bone	moose	kennel A-5		X		X	
238	proximal phalanx	moose	kennel C-5	X	X			
239	proximal phalanx	moose	kennel C-5	X	X			
240	middle phalanx	moose	kennel C-5	X	X			
241	distal phalanx	moose	kennel C-5	X	X			
242	sesamoids (1)	moose	kennel C-5	X	X			
243	sesamoids (5)	moose	kennel C-5	X	X			
245	long bone frag.	unident.	2-3S/10-11E	X		X		
249	right maxilla fragment	domestic cat	3-4S/11-12E	X		X		

Table 8. continued

Cat. No.	Bone Type	Animal	Location	Natural	Complete	Partial	Gnawed	Butchered
388	right humerus proximal frag.	snowshoe hare	1-2S/38-39E	X		X		
438	patella	wolf	1-2S/46-47E	X		X		
471	long bone frag. (2)	unident.	0-1N/47-48E	X		X		
617	23 rib frag.	unident.	3-4N/48-49E	X		X		
617	unident. frag.	unident.	3-4N/48-49E	X		X		
617	thoracic vert. (3)	snowshoe hare	3-4N/48-49E	X		X		
617	1 lumbar vert.	snowshoe hare	3-4N/48-49E	X		X		
617	1 lumbar vert.	snowshoe hare	3-4N/48-49E	X	X			
617	3 cervical vert.	snowshoe hare	3/4N/48-49E	X	X			
644	sacrum frag.	snowshoe hare	4-5N/47-48E	X		X		
644	lumbar vert.	snowshoe hare	4-5N/47-48E	X		X		
649	lumbar vert.	snowshoe hare	4-5N/47-48E	X		X		
653	lumbar vert.	snowshoe hare	4-5N/47-48E	X		X		
667	proximal femur	bird	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
667	humerus prox.	bird	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
667	acetabulum frag.	bird	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
667	rib frag.	bird	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
667	unident.	unident.	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		

Table 8. continued

Cat. No.	Bone Type	Animal	Location	Natural	Complete	Partial	Gnawed	Butchered
667	first phalanges	bird	4-5N/48-49E	X	X			
667	2nd phalanges	snowshoe hare	4-5N/48-49E	X	X			
667	3rd phalanges	bird	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
667	phalanges (10)	unident.	4-5N/48-49E	X	X			
667	fibula tibia	bird	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
667	fibula tibia	bird	4-5N/48-49E	X	X			
667	left innominate	snowshoe hare	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
667	lumbar vert.	snowshoe hare	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
667	centrum	unident.	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
667	thoracic vert.	snowshoe hare	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
667	left proximal femur	snowshoe hare	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
667	distal femur	snowshoe hare	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
667	distal tibia	bird	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
667	radius	bird	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
667	tibia proximal	bird	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
667	unident. (21)	unident.	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
667	centrum epiphysis	unident.	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
667	distal humerus	bird	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
667	ulna	bird	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
667	metacarpal	bird	4-5N/48-49E	X	X			
667	proximal radius	bird	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		

Table 8. continued

Cat. No.	Bone Type	Animal	Location	Natural	Complete	Partial	Gnawed	Butchered
667	fibula	bird	4-5N/48-49E	X		X		
698	left innominate	snowshoe hare	5-6N/47-48E	X		X		
698	lumbar vert.	snowshoe hare	5-6N/47-48E	X		X		
698	phalange	snowshoe hare	5-6N/47-48E	X	X			
698	femurs prox.	snowshoe hare	5-6N/47-48E	X		X		
698	left & right prox. epiphysis	snowshoe hare	5-6N/47-48E	X	X			
698	tibia	unident.	5-6N/47-48E	X		X		
698	distal femur (2)	snowshoe hare	5-6N/47-48E	X		X		
698	ribs (3)	unident.	5-6N/47-48E	X		X		
698	long bone (3)	unident.	5-6N/47-48E	X		X		
698	astragalus	snowshoe hare	5-6N/47-48E	X		X		
698	calcaneum	snowshoe hare	5-6N/47-48E	X		X		
712	right innominate	snowshoe hare	5-6N/47-48E	X		X		
712	right tibia proximal	snowshoe hare	5-6N/47-48E	X		X		
727	calcaneous	snowshoe hare	5-6N/48-49E	X		X		
727	tibia distal	snowshoe hare	5-6N/48-49E	X		X		

Table 8. continued

Cat. No.	Bone Type	Animal	Location	Natural	Complete	Partial	Gnawed	Butchered
727	astragalus	snowshoe hare	5-6N/48-49E	X		X		
727	left tibia proximal	snowshoe hare	5-6N/48-49E	X		X		
727	maxilla & teeth (2)	snowshoe hare	5-6N/48-49E	X		X		
727	distal femur	snowshoe hare	5-6N/48-49E	X		X		
727	metatarsal (2) III	snowshoe hare	5-6N/48-49E	X		X		
727	metatarsal (3)	snowshoe hare	5-6N/48-49E	X	X			
727	metatarsal II	snowshoe hare	5-6N/48-49E	X	X			
727	long bone (10)	unident.	5-6N/48-49E	X		X		
727	metatarsal III	snowshoe hare	5-6N/48-49E	X		X		
727	metatarsal IV	snowshoe hare	5-6N/48-49E	X		X		
727	unident. (5)	unident.	5-6N/48-49E	X		X		
727	patella	snowshoe hare	5-6N/48-49E	X	X			
727	claw bones 3rd phalanges	snowshoe hare	5-6N/48-49E	X	X			
740	sacrum	snowshoe hare	5-6N/48-49E	X		X		
740	left innominate	snowshoe hare	5-6N/48-49E	X		X		

Table 8. continued

Cat. No.	Bone Type	Animal	Location	Natural	Complete	Partial	Gnawed	Butchered
758	unident.	unident.	5-6N/51-52E	X		X		
820	long bone	unident.	8-9N/47-48E	X		X		

CHAPTER VII.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

DISCUSSION

This chapter discusses the results of historic and archeological research on the Eagle Historic District. summer 1977, with an emphasis on Fort Egbert. The chapter concludes with recommendations for further work.

HISTORIC RESEARCH

Historic research, focusing on Fort Egbert, resulted in the collection of a substantial amount of data on the establishment, functioning, and closure of the fort, which can serve as a framework for future research. In addition, the historic information reported in Chapter IV and Appendix II will be of considerable value to site planners involved in interpreting and restoring the fort for the public.

Fort Egbert was built in 1899 to monitor border traffic, protect settlers, establish communication and transportation systems, and guard the first tentative extensions of "civilization" into the wilderness. The establishment of domestic law and order in the interior of Alaska as well as a speedy communication system were primary military goals.

A number of conditions changed, however, almost as soon as the post was born. Where men on foot had carried their gear over the Chilkoot Pass several years earlier, there was a railroad. Where miners had prospected, fought, and gambled, there was the orderly town of Eagle, with assigned lots and taxes and a local government. Marconi's successful transmission of wireless messages across the Atlantic in 1901 adumbrated the abandonment of Fort Egbert (1911) and the land telegraph lines (in 1908) in Alaska which had been heroically laid by Lt. William "Billy" Mitchell and his crews from Fort Egbert by 1903. Representatives of other branches of government were sent to Alaska, and rudimentary

civil justice and educational services began to be within the realm of the expectable.

While conditions were changing, the seed of the fort, once planted, grew rapidly, and was fed of itself. Its initial development stage ended in about 1904, when most of the requisite buildings had been constructed. A period of embellishment set in thereafter, and Fort Egbert no longer thought of itself strictly as a frontier outpost. Life was still, of course, somewhat lonely for its men, and remote from any comforts and familiar things. However, at this point one detects an attitude of the expectation of compensation for a hardship post, a feeling that the Army must provide, and thus take up the slack. That this was at all possible indicates, of course, the decline of the frontier here. Thus, efforts were made, and studies undertaken, to explore the feasibility of coolers and light plants, and recreational facilities were expanded. By 1909, Fort Egbert was basically a modern military post, fully in the swing of twentieth century military administration and technology. To be sure, there were lapses, and one cannot compare Fort Egbert to, say, Fort Flagler, Washington. It was still clearly a different place and run according to a different game plan.

The interpretation of the post's existence further up the ranks changed, too. It was a terribly expensive place to run. This is not necessarily a sin in military administration, but it must be well justified. Fort Egbert, just recently matured into the modern age, could not be justified. The Army concluded that it had a dead weight, and took rapid steps toward its removal. The only real justification of the fort was its support activities and residual benefits for the town of Eagle, which had lost population and importance to the booming Fairbanks area. The Army, of course, is not in the business of supporting civilians, or of aiding lagging towns. It therefore pulled out its troops and cut its losses.

Subsequent use of the post was essentially as salvage, much on the order of a "Blazo" can being turned into a bucket. This recycling approach is typically an Alaskan trait. Subsequent users of the fort, chiefly the remaining Signal Corps units and the Alaska Road Commission, and later various civilian users, tapped the remains as a natural resource of the area. Its permutations were many and ingenious, but never fanciful.

While the history of Fort Egbert is inextricably associated with perceived military needs (such as establishment of rapid communication lines), the internal history of the fort, as discussed in this report, is equally significant and interesting. The fact that a fort, nearly "modern" in appearance and nature by 1911, with an impressive physical plant, was developed with such rapidity in interior Alaska and successfully met its goals so quickly is surely a case study of major historic interest. This is an overwhelming aspect of Fort Egbert's history and should play an important part in the interpretive preparation of the fort for the public.

ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The archeological survey of Fort Egbert and portions of the Eagle Historic District resulted in the collection of a variety of data which can be used to study human cultural systems through time in a small area as well as cultural adaptation and change. The survey was conducted with the idea that, in addition to providing an inventory of sites, survey data can be used to investigate questions in regional history and prehistory. Since archeology is founded in anthropology, it should contribute to research "by searching for underlying patterns, processes, and 'laws' to explain cultural reality" (Schuyler 1970:86, 87).

Land use and settlement patterns in time and through time (historic and prehistoric) by native and non-native populations are discussed below. Cultural patterns characteristic of these different populations point to similarities, differences, and changes through time. The postulate that sites are "located in such a way as to minimize effort expended in dealing with the environment" (Redman 1973:13), a notion being increasingly tested in anthropology and geography, is also discussed. In addition, the possibility that social variables have played a role in determining site location and determination of whether sites are evenly dispersed or clustered in an area are also considered.

During our survey and previous archeological investigations in the study area, evidence of prehistoric native occupation has been accumulated from a minimum of 10 localities. Although no absolute dates have been established for any of the materials, which have been recovered from disturbed and undisturbed contexts, it is still possible to make some statement regarding period of occupation. All artifacts or features were apparently located above a

volcanic ash horizon visible in the soil strata in the area. This ash was deposited around A.D. 400 (Workman 1974). Thus, all prehistoric materials found thus far post-date this time. Whether they are all contemporaneous, however, is not known since the collections are all so small and contain little in the way of diagnostic artifacts. The few diagnostic pieces suggest the presence in the area of a core and blade technology in late prehistoric time similar to that found at other sites in interior Alaska such as Healy Lake (McKenna and Cook 1968) and Dixthada near Tanacross (Shinkwin 1975).

In addition to this late prehistoric occupation(s), there is evidence at one site in the core area and at Nibaeael Zhoo, ca. one mile upriver, of apparently successive early historic Han Indian occupations. Native oral traditions include accounts of a mid-nineteenth century village near the mouth of American Creek which we could not locate. While the study area has been occupied by Athapaskans since the time of contact and possibly by their ancestors in pre-contact time, it is unclear how continuous or intensive the occupations have been due to the present nature of our data.

In viewing land use and settlement patterns, it appears that these sites were strategically located for the acquisition of natural resources such as the annual migrations of caribou through and near this locality in the fall and the runs of king and dog salmon during the summer. Sheep could be hunted up Mission Creek and in the nearby Ogilvie Mountains and black bear were locally procured. Additionally, the forest provided spruce, birch, and willow, all of which were used in the manufacture of material items and for fuel while at the same time a habitat was provided for small game which were also exploited as a food source. Finally, this locality was not susceptible to flooding.

The sites discovered during the survey are represented for the most part by flake scatters away from the Yukon River's edge. These surface finds are similar to those found during excavations last summer at the Quartermaster's Stables and the previous summer at the U.S. Courthouse (Sackett 1977). The only features (hearths) found suggesting prehistoric camps were at the river's edge (see p. 140). These data, along with the presence of historic materials above these hearths, and the historic site of Nibaeael Zhoo (Andrews 1977) indicate that settlements were located in direct proximity to the Yukon.

In surveying the area near Eagle, it was observed that several points afforded outstanding views of the river and creek valleys. The added potential of good game lookouts which were easily accessible to the settlement(s) could also have played a role in determining site location and two sites of this type have been found in this type of area (F.S. #3; Waldman 1977).

Because of the lack of more extensive archeological surveys up and downriver from Eagle, it is difficult to determine whether the number of archeological localities in the immediate vicinity of Eagle represents a clustering of native prehistoric and early historic settlements or whether other localities also exhibit the presence of semi-permanent settlements. The documentation of accounts of summer fish camps used by native Eagle residents during the twentieth century along the Yukon between the Canadian border upriver from Eagle and Calico Bluff about 15 miles downriver may indicate a patterned summer dispersal along 25 miles of river and a re congregation at Eagle for the remainder of the year (Andrews, E., field notes). It is difficult to determine whether such a pattern characterized the area in prehistoric time because of our almost complete lack of archeological data elsewhere in the region of the Han in Alaska.

Throughout the historic period we can see a number of continuities as well as change in the adaptation of human populations in the survey area. A native community is no longer present near Eagle Bluff, but with the presence of white settlers and later the military at Eagle, the native people established a permanent settlement at the site of the modern Eagle village, three miles upriver near a locality which was occasionally occupied during the late nineteenth century. Thus, it appears that social pressure or ethnic differences between two groups has resulted in the lack of a native settlement in historic times at a traditionally occupied locality. However, the native community remained in an area where resources were relatively abundant and easily accessible and where they had an intimate knowledge of the land and its resources. The presence of numerous localities within our survey area used by native people for collecting birch bark points to a persistence in use of a traditional area throughout the historic period although other bark collecting areas outside of the project area were also noted. The bark collecting areas found during our survey tended to cluster along the ridge between Eagle and American Creek where large birch stands occur and where

they are easily accessible by road or trail. The presence of two native allotment sites also points to other areas closer to the white community which reveal more recent native use of the area but are more likely related to the continued use of traditional localities which has also persisted to the present day. No other sites within the survey area could be associated definitely with cultural activities of native people except for the probable moose fence found near American Creek.

Cabin remains, campsites, timber cutting areas, and transportation routes were all possibly representative of non-native activities associated with the development of the city of Eagle and Fort Egbert. Others might argue that the presence of many non-natives in Alaska at all might in part be related to social variables such as a desire for separation and/or privacy. Historical documents have shown that two small trading posts operated for only two seasons at a native camp near Eagle in the early 1880's and that they were only really feasible at Eagle when mining interests took hold, the city of Eagle developed, and Fort Egbert became established. (Three trading companies were quartered at Eagle City in 1898--Grauman 1977:82.)

Other factors, however, that were significant in the occupation of the area by non-natives were the presence of good timber and the high, relatively flat bank on the shore of the Yukon at Eagle. In addition, however, Eagle's proximity to the Canadian border and the military's concern with customs control combined with these factors in the choice of this locality for the site of Fort Egbert. Many of the sites found during the summer were timber cutting areas and the numerous roads and trails in the same general areas seem to indicate that the procurement of wood for fuel and construction was a major concern for the non-native community. The two sawmills found in addition to the fort sawmill reveal the necessity for milling local timber throughout the twentieth century rather than relying on expensive freighting of non-local lumber which was only shipped during the summer when steamboats could ply the waters of the Yukon River. This need for wood may also explain the relatively few and remnant cabin remains found during our survey. Logs from abandoned cabins were apparently reused for any number of purposes and one historic document clearly states that one cabin in the core area of the fort was dismantled and used for fuel. Almost all households in Eagle today continue to rely on wood for heat and some construction, and some roads found in the survey

area were apparently used as routes to current timber cutting areas.

Persistence in the traditional and once solely native acquisition of local resources can also be seen in other activities of the non-native population throughout the historic period. Captain Farnsworth, Commanding Officer at Fort Egbert in 1900-1901, repeatedly mentioned and favored the hunting camps of the garrison which supplied much fresh caribou meat and ptarmigan to the installation. Lieutenant Mitchell similarly took advantage of the salmon runs to provide dog food for the sled dogs that were instrumental in supplying and constructing the overland telegraph line. Although we did not find archeological evidence for the military engaging in these pursuits, sites related to the acquisition of natural resources by the civilian population were found. Several recent trap sets were found and reveal the persistence of this activity by some members of the modern population. Four temporary shelters--lean-tos--also recent, seem to indicate the continuation of an earlier practice employed by individuals when on the trail in pursuit of a local resource. Two modern campsites on Belle Isle suggest that the desire for privacy and separation, i.e., social variables, remain variables in the determination of site location. One could also view the maintenance of the city of Eagle as a viable community which exists today because of its desire to remain relatively remote from the mainstream of American lifeways.

Culture change is also evident in the survey area. The establishment of Fort Egbert itself, complete with some forty-five structures to serve as housing, supply, communication, and medical facilities and to monitor the activities of Americans in Alaska, played a significant role in the "Americanization" of Alaska during the military's short life in Eagle. World-wide communications were established, first with the overland telegraph line and again with the wireless telegraph station. Now only material debris from this historic landmark dot Telegraph Hill at Eagle and Eagle had no telecommunications system until June 1977. With the completion of the Taylor Highway in the 1950's, this linear site which roughly follows an historic trail provides modern residents with a summer supply, commerce, and communication avenue. Ironically, this highway has also contributed to the depletion of the caribou herd to the point where caribou are no longer considered a local resource and residents increasingly rely on imported foods.

In sum, our survey data reveal several cultural patterns and adaptations of different populations. Pre-historic populations occupied the survey area possibly as long as 1500 years ago and more recently during the nineteenth century making use of local resources with no or little importation of non-native goods and occupation of this area can be directly linked to the presence of varied natural resources, including a major waterway. Some traditional native activities have persisted in the survey area even though the native community has had to focus most of its village-oriented activities three miles upriver where for the first time a permanent community was established probably, in part, because of non-environmental factors including pressure on space in the fort area, as well as increasing reliance on imported items available at Eagle City. Throughout the historic period, non-native civilians and the military alike necessarily became engaged in pursuing local resources as well for food, construction, and fuel, while at the same time imported goods and foreign lifestyles were being integrated into traditional Alaska. The presence of recent campsites as well as traplines and timber cutting areas reveal the persistence of many traditional activities by the non-native community in spite of other changes such as air and highway communications and supply.

EXCAVATIONS

Excavations at the Quartermaster's Stables (Building 14) resulted in the collection of early twentieth century technological items related primarily to the building of the stables and later structural alterations. Excavations also have served to answer some structural questions relevant to restoration activities which were not clear from historic documents. This work represents a beginning of specific research on lifestyles at one of the three first American military installations in the State of Alaska and provides data which can be used in presenting a fuller, though limited due to the nature of the excavation, picture of activities related to the stables. While fulfilling an archeological interest, these data can also be synthesized to be of use to individuals involved in restoring the structure to its condition in 1911, which is of interest to historians as well as the public.

In establishing how the stables appeared in 1911, interpretation of archival photographs in conjunction with archeological evidence was necessary. It is the nature of

historic (written or photographic) documentation, which represents the interests of an individual at a certain point in time, that makes historic archeology an important part of research on historic sites. In this case, review of archival data revealed a lack of information on the stables. In addition, historic documents rarely present the entire cultural system as it operated at a single place at a point in time and a comparison of that system with others can only result from a study of data from many sources. The stables represent only one component in a larger system at the fort which remains to be investigated.

At the time of excavation, the south side of the structure contained only the remnants of a series of dog kennels. Although there are photographic records for the kennels and for an earlier shed on this side, there are not sufficient documents to present the chronology of construction on the south side. Excavation did not result in an absolute chronology for structural events on the south side, but a combination of data suggests a relative sequence. Early photographs show a shed as well as some dog kennels on the south side. The three series of kennels built at different times, discussed earlier, were in existence in 1911. The shed had to have been removed, based on structural evidence, prior to the construction of the C kennel unit. Its former size has been reconstructed based on the absence of a charcoal deposit and the location of a drip line recovered archeologically associated with the former roof of the shed. (The possible function of the shed is discussed later in this section.)

A ramp was found on the east side and must have been in use prior to 1911. A layer of gravel which was probably laid down by the Alaska Road Commission hid its presence. Cultural material recovered from above the ramp, but below the gravel layer, is associated with the military's occupation of the structure. Any material above this post-dates this time and probably relates primarily to activities of the Alaska Road Commission.

Limited archeological work was performed on the north and west sides of the Stables due to the disturbed nature of the area. No signs of structural features were noted and archival data do not indicate any structures on these sides. The lack of any structural feature on the west suggests that this side did not have a ramp similar to that on the east. The east side, then, must have been the main door to the stables.

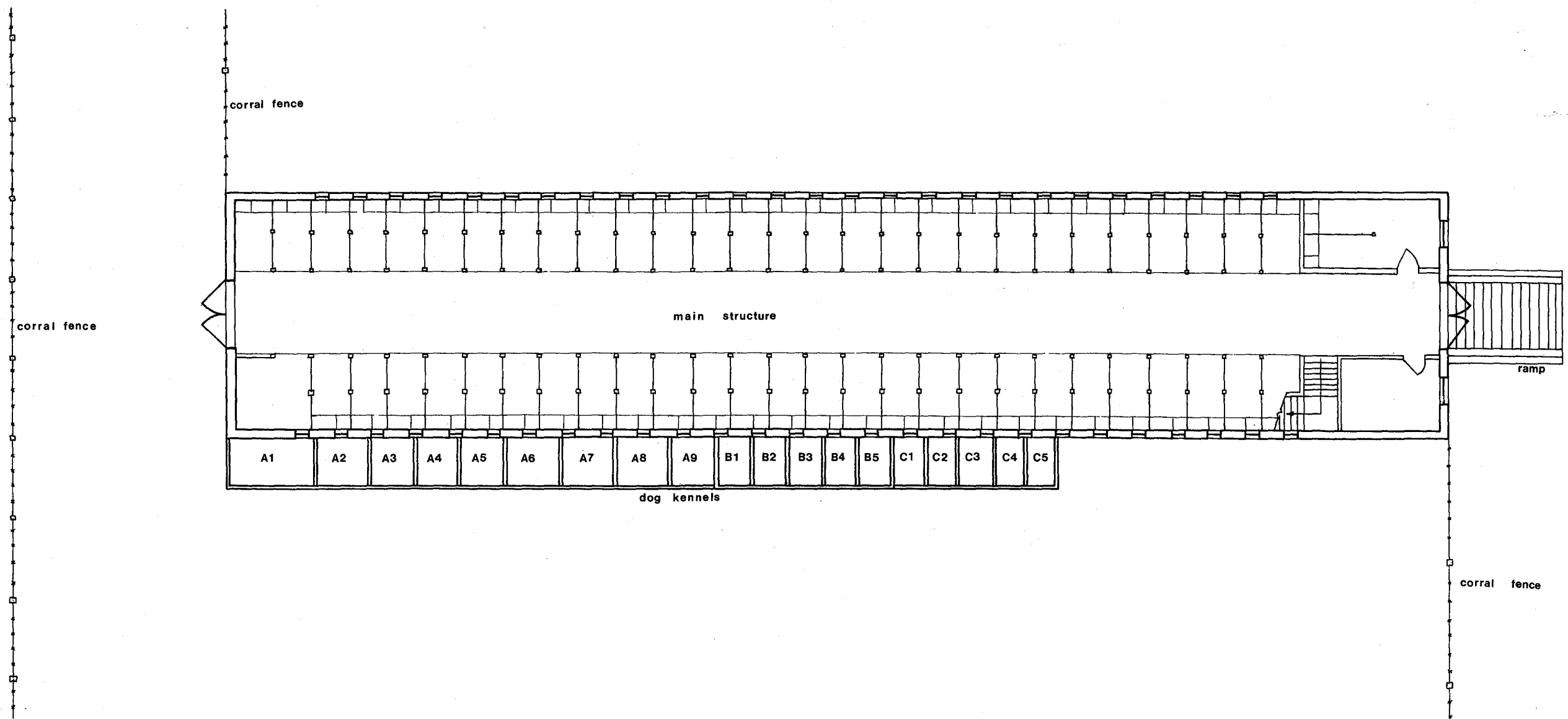


FIG. 101. SITE MAP SHOWING HOW THE STABLES APPEARED IN 1911



Corral fences also were associated with the stables in 1911. Archeological evidence was found for three fence lines. As discussed in Chapter VI, these were located as follows: one west of the structure running in a north/south direction, one running in a north/south direction from the structure's northwest corner, and one running in a north/south direction from the structure's southeast corner. These fence lines, respectively, would have been part of a corral to the west of the structure, one to the north, and one on the south side of the stables. Early maps and photographs show a fence line also running in a north/south direction from the stables' southwest corner. However, no signs of this fence line were recovered. This fence line probably did exist but possible alterations to the ground in this area may have destroyed any such remains. A plan of how the Quartermaster's Stables appeared in 1911 is shown in Figure 101.

In determining activity patterns around the structure, the north and west sides can only be dealt with quickly because of their disturbance and the little information obtained through test pitting. Even so, it appears that these two sides of the stables were used less than the south or east sides. This would be expected for the west side because it faced away from the core area of the fort. An early photograph (Fig. 71) suggests that the west doors were used for removing manure from the stables.

The south and east sides of the structure, because of the emphasis placed in these areas during excavation and because of their apparent greater importance in activities at the stables, yielded a greater variety and amount (82%) of cultural material. A consideration of the artifact distribution around the stables in terms of eight major classes of material (1--construction hardware, 2--misc. household hardware, 3--dog and mule hardware, 4--personal belongings, 5--munitions, 6--misc. material, 7--lithic material, and 8--faunal) indicates some differences in use patterns (Fig. 102). The majority and the greatest variety (12 categories) of construction hardware (Class 1) not surprisingly was found on the south side of the stables reflecting the greater construction and structural alterations in this area. The low frequency of this artifact class distribution on the north and west sides reflects hardware deposited as the result of loss or breakage during the initial construction of the stables.

The east side yielded the majority of the non-construction material. The deposition of these materials

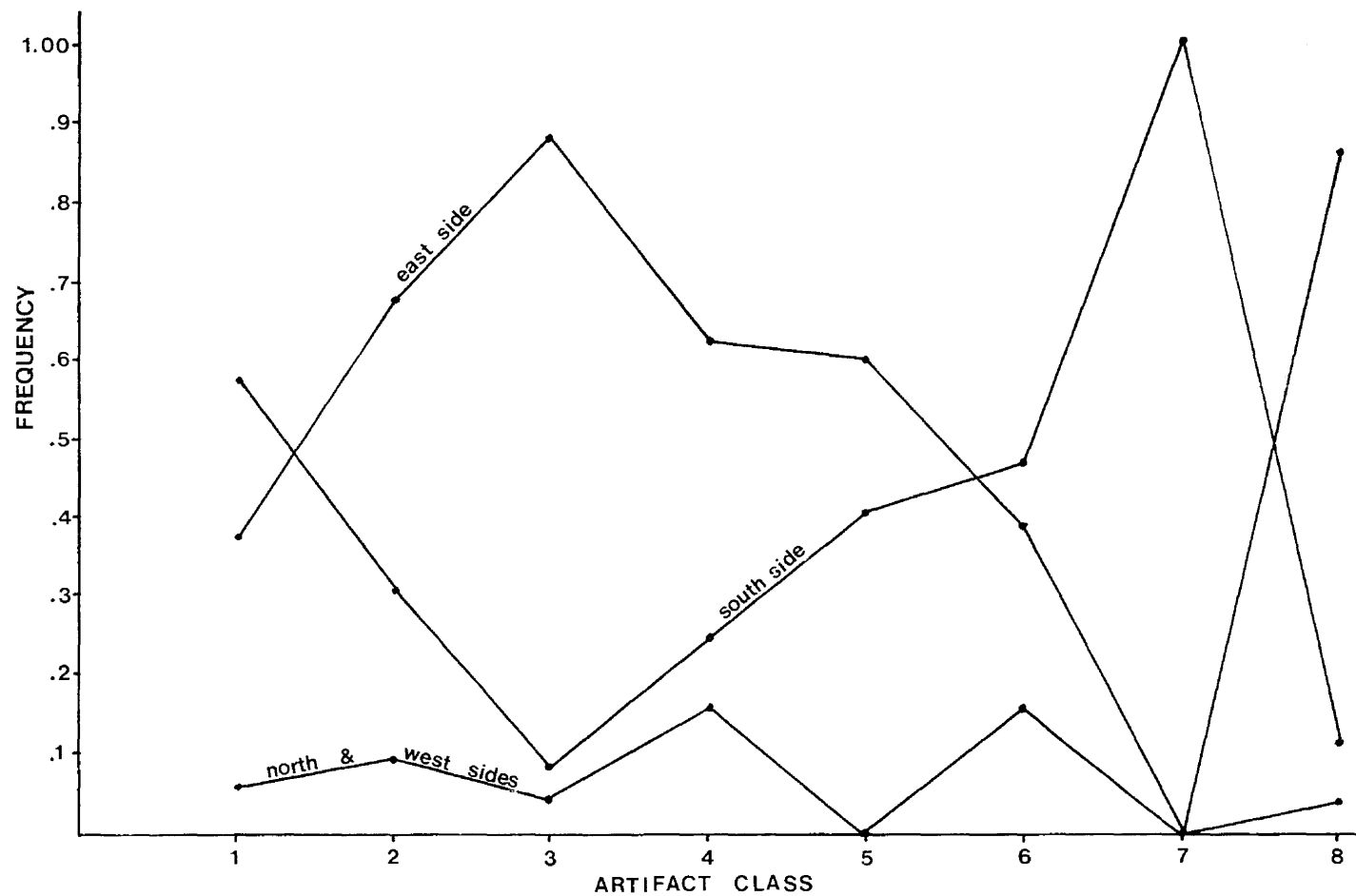


Fig. 102. Frequency of artifact class distribution around the Stables.

(Classes 2-5) in this area can be explained in terms of four factors. The mule hardware recovered from this side is associated with harnessing activities. With the harness room located on the first floor in the southeast corner, harnesses would be brought in and out of the stables from the east door with harness repair taking place in this general area. The high frequency of household hardware (Class 2), personal belongings (Class 4), and munitions (Class 5) reflect the comparatively heavier use of this area by people entering the stables. In addition, the harness room, along with the sick bay for the mules, were located on the east end of the structure contributing to the amount of traffic here. The location of the Wagon Shed a few meters (Fig. 103) to the southwest of the stables probably also played a factor in this traffic on the east side. The east side of the structure, then, would have been the ideal area for the congregation of people, animals, and equipment associated with the stables and was the factor which led to the higher frequency of non-constructional material being found here.



Fig. 103. Wagon Shed and Stables (right)--1905
(C. L. Andrews Collection, University
of Oregon Archives).

An interesting question posed in connection with the south side is whether this area was completely devoted for dog use or whether the mules were also corraled here. The soil profiles (Fig. 104) obtained from core samples taken from this area, suggest that possibly only dogs were kept in this area. If mules were corraled here, the soil profiles would be expected to reveal a more chewed-up profile resulting from mules' hoofs churning the upper levels together. Because the levels are distinct, it appears that this area was not exposed to the churning action of mules but was probably used as a run area for the dogs.

The last question deals with the function of the shed on the south side of the stables. The majority of cultural material recovered here was associated with construction activities. Most of the non-construction material, such as baling wire and unused mule shoe nails, suggests that the shed was used as a storage area for material used in connection with the stables' activities. The baling wire may have been used in securing wooden crates and was deposited here as a result of opening crates in this apparent storage area. Coal was also found along the west end of the shed. While a blacksmith shop was housed in Building 13, possibly as early as 1902 (Appendix II), a storage building for coal was not built until 1907 (Building 41, Appendix II) and it seems likely that the shed, which was in existence by 1904, was the storage area for coal used to heat the stables. The construction of the Lumber and Coal Shed (Building 41) in 1907 might mark the approximate time of the removal of the shed which would no longer be necessary for coal storage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations regarding future work at Fort Egbert and in the Eagle Historic District, based on an analysis of historic research and survey data, are presented here.

The focus of our historic research generally was to produce a sketch of the life of Fort Egbert and more specifically to document the physical plant the the nature of goods imported to the fort as well as the tenor of life at the post. These specific goals were chosen as relevant to our overall project which included interpretation of material remains at the fort and accumulation of data which could be useful to site interpreters. Because of these goals and time limitations, many aspects of fort life could

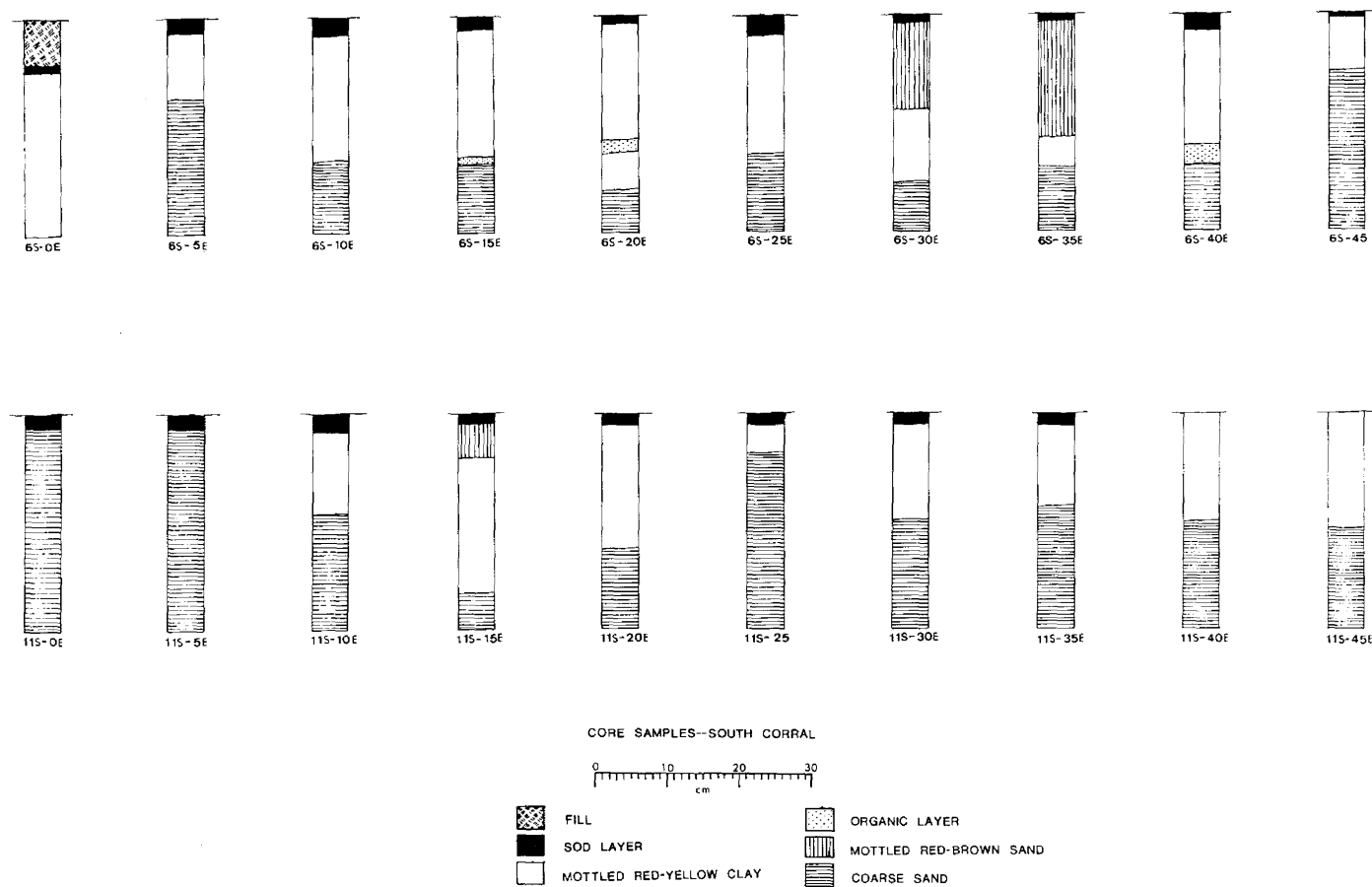


Fig. 104. Soil profiles from area south of Stables.

be studied with additional research, such as health status (c.f., Record Groups 94 and 98), which would fill out the historical sketch presented in this report. Our general recommendation is that additional research on the history of Fort Egbert be conducted (see Appendix I for additional suggested sources) since our research results, as noted earlier, are of a very preliminary nature.

Areas in the district which were not surveyed include the northern and eastern portions of Section 19, Township 1 South, Range 33 East; all of Section 24, Township 1 South, Range 32 East; and two islands in the eastern portions of Section 30 and Section 31, Township 1 South, Range 33 East (all Fairbanks Meridian) (see Fig. 2, page 3). Both sections 19 and 24 exhibit a very steep topography with very limited and difficult accessibility. On the basis of the lack of any significant finds in the same type of area immediately to the south (portions of Section 25, T1S, R32E and Section 30, T1S, R33E) and the unsuitable nature of this area (topographically) for habitation and/or use, it is not likely that any evidence for human activity will be found here (sections 19 and 24) with one possible exception. The remains of one cabin were found along the Yukon River further south in Section 19 and since several other habitation sites were found along waterways and on one island in the survey area, one might expect the remains of dwellings or campsites to be found elsewhere along the river in Section 19 and perhaps on the portion of the island also in Section 19 which was not surveyed. For the same reasons, one might anticipate finding sites on the islands in Section 29 and 31 (T1S, R33E) which were not surveyed, as well as the area bordering American Creek in the northwest corner of Section 25 (T1S, R32E). Additional survey outside the core area of the fort, then, is recommended only for the areas of high archeological potential mentioned above.

Much specific information on each of the building sites in the core area of Fort Egbert has been presented in the text and in appendices. The report can be used as a baseline from which an investigator could design a testing program to evaluate better the potential of archeological work at each building site. Sprague (1975) recommended total excavation for all sites on a priority scale based apparently on amount of structural or material (non-structural) debris on the surface. We do not think that total excavation should be the goal unless there is good reason to believe that the excavation will reveal sufficient

data to warrant the amount of money needed for such an enterprise. Based on our observations, testing measures should be devised for each building site, based on data presented here. What would be appropriate at one building site would not necessarily be appropriate at another. In other words, the testing program should be structure-specific and related to a research problem or problems.

The major general recommendation, then, from survey in the core area is that no plans for a total excavation should be made without a systematic program of test excavations related to a series of research problems. The fort remains should be viewed as remnants of a past cultural system which contained many components of behavior. These include the domestic life of several classes of people (Commanding Officer, other Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, Civilian Employees, Enlisted Men) and numerous activities which were carried on at the fort relating to transportation, communication, and the maintenance of the fort itself.

The lack of more artifact debris in the area of the fort is perhaps one of the most striking and alarming features of the fort. As outlined in our discussions earlier, part of this relates to the history of many of the buildings which were salvaged. In addition, in the city of Eagle there is a strong tradition of collecting, salvaging, re-using old things in the area. Individuals and families visit the dump (old and new) sites regularly and no doubt this pastime has some time depth. This tradition has obviously operated in a negative way in terms of potential archeological work. At the same time, it is possible that some of the items now housed in private collections in the area could be retrieved for display at the fort.

Although no immediate additional excavations are contemplated at the fort, a few specific comments on the potential of the various categories of building sites should be made.

Category 1 sites (Buildings 12, 13, 17, 19, 43/44)--existing structures--have no archeological value since the immediate areas around all of them have been disturbed, either by grading, stabilization, or excavation (Quartermaster's Stables).

Category 2 sites (those with structural remains) contain a number of possibilities archeologically. These building sites contain more structural debris and artifact

remains on the surface than those in the following categories. Therefore, it seems more likely that excavations would be most profitable at these sites.

This category includes remains of dwellings for three classes of individuals (Commanding Officer, #1; Civilian Employees, #24; and Enlisted Men, #21). All three have structural remains and some debris. In addition, the Old Post Exchange (#32), which was later the Signal Corps Barracks, is a key structure and might yield material revealing its multiple use. Medical facilities (the Old Hospital, #20, which was later the Laundry, and the New Hospital, #34) are also included in this category. There is apparently very little in archival records regarding the Old Hospital and we noted possible activity areas in association with this structure. In addition, refuse areas were noted near the New Hospital, possibly related to its distance from the dump. We have assigned a negative priority to Building 35 (Hospital Sergeant's Quarters) since it was a short-term occupation by one or two medical personnel and it is doubtful that data on medical behavior or behavior on personnel's domestic activities could be obtained here that could not be obtained from other medical or dwelling facilities. Very little, if anything, remains at Building 22b (New Bakery) or Building 36 (Gymnasium).

In terms of archeological research, then, this category of sites potentially could contribute data on the domestic life of several categories of personnel, on leisure time, and medical activities.

Category 3 sites (those with distinct outlines) contains one potentially important site. Building 3 (Officer's Quarters) represents another dwelling (in addition to those in category 2) which today contains many material remains. A small test here revealed a cultural level. The other structure in this category (#38, New Pumphouse), although well defined, did not contain much material and information on the water system can be obtained in other ways.

Category 4 sites (those with faint outlines) do not contain much potential in terms of surface indications. Five are storage related (#10-ice; #27-oil; #37-straw; #39-oil; #41-lumber and coal). Three of these (10, 27, 37) contained no structural debris and no artifacts. In addition, the ice house was an above-ground structure. Two others (39, 41) have some structural debris and very few

artifact remains. Two additional structures in this category (#45, Old Pumphouse; #15, Shops) also show little above-ground promise of yielding significant archeological data. Four other sites in this category which were especially sparse are Buildings 15 (Wagon Shed), 23 (Saw-mill), 30 (New Post Exchange), and 33 (New Guardhouse).

Category 5 sites (those with no surface indications) include the former locations of 12 buildings which were obliterated by the construction of the airfield (Buildings 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 16, 18, 22a, 26, 28, 43/44, 44/45). Since this was the main activity and housing area of the fort, the loss of these buildings is most regrettable. In addition, the Parade Ground was destroyed in this vicinity.

This category also includes three storage-related structures (Ordnance Storehouse, #9; Quartermaster's Storehouse, #11; Commissary Warehouse, #26). Although remains are scant, excavations at all three might provide important data on food and non-food items. Testing, especially at Buildings 11 and 26, are recommended. Special function buildings in this category include: Commissary (8), Engineer's Quarters (25), Telegraph Office (29), Unidentified Building (42), and Workshop (43/0).

Category 6 sites include a number of varied activity areas. Of these, perhaps the most interesting archeologically are the dump areas. It is strongly recommended that the old dump areas be inventoried and tested systematically.

The core area also contains evidence of prehistoric sites, Category 7, throughout much of its eastern portion, as noted in the text, especially at the edge of the bank of the Yukon River. More testing should be employed to determine how extensive these sites are.

The preservation plan for Fort Egbert, prepared by the National Trust (n.d.), suggests that interpretive themes developed for the fort should stress its "military role in establishing law and order and in developing supply, transportation, and communications systems in interior Alaska." We have also suggested that the internal history of the development of a military installation of notable size and nearly modern appearance in interior Alaska in a remarkably short period of time--and a post which quickly met its stated aims--is another important interpretive theme. Historic data presented in Chapter IV of this report and in Appendices II-IV should be of considerable

use in developing photographic and narrative displays at selected areas of the fort.

As the National Trust report suggests, an interpretive tour for the fort area should be devised. We recommend a tour which could be keyed into a system of numbered markers, placed at recommended locations (below), with the sequence of numbers indicating the direction of travel a visitor would take in walking through the fort. A pamphlet containing a brief narrative of the history of the fort and a map illustrating locations of numbered markers could be made available at the entrance to the fort.

The most natural entry would be the "main gate" of the fort at the junction of Third Avenue and C Street (Fig. 5), restoring the southern flag pole, north of the entrance, and marking the location of the guardhouse (Building 33), which originally had a watch tower, adjacent to the gate. A display map of the original fort (such as Fig. 5), accompanied by historic information on the establishment, functioning, and closure of the post, could be placed at the gate to orient the visitor to the area. In order to restore the area in an attractive and meaningful fashion to tourists, however, the Alaska State Highway garages and storage facilities presently located in the vicinity of the south flagpole and just south of the original site of Building 2, would have to be relocated.

The "proposed treatment" for Fort Egbert, presented by the National Trust (n.d.:Exhibit 5), represents an ideal preparation of the area for tourists. It will also entail major modification of existing road systems, restoration of boardwalks, and restoration of the parade grounds, which will necessitate abandonment (and landscaping) of the present airstrip in the former area of the parade grounds. Any plan for preparing the fort, in our opinion, will have to incorporate the removal of at least some of the recent roads and the restoration of the parade ground and adjacent gravel walks because the present visual image created by these features is not in keeping with the historical setting of the fort and is extremely disorienting to the visitor. Restoration of boardwalks where they parallel (1911) roads without full restoration of roads present in 1911 is an alternative to the plan presented by the National Trust and would add to the historic setting as well as provide walkways in a planned tour.

The number of buildings chosen to be prepared for the public, in terms of general or specific interpretive markers or displays, obviously depends on the amount of funds available. A limited approach, in contrast to the ideal plan prepared already by the National Trust, should focus on preparing areas indicative of the number of historically significant functions the fort had. The natural focus will be on the five remaining structures (Category 1), each of which should, at a minimum, be identified by an interpretive marker. Photographic illustrations or sketches from blueprints documenting their original context should be posted. These buildings represent examples for the public of internal activities at the fort (storage: Building 17, Granary; supplies: Building 12, Quartermaster's Warehouse; fire control and water delivery: Building 43/44, Firehouse; one dwelling type: Building 19, NCO Quarters; transportation: Building 14, Quartermaster's Stables). In addition, the Quartermaster's Stables initially played an important role for housing animals used in the establishment of the telegraph line. Written and photographic information on the role of the dogs and mules, housed at this structure can be supplemented with artifacts recovered from excavations at this building and could be placed on display. In terms of restoration of the Stables, it is recommended that the dog kennels be reconstructed along with the ramp on the east side. The shed probably had been removed by 1911. Consideration should be given to replacing the corral fencing (wire fence) in the immediate vicinity of the stables. Further investigations will be required if the total corral dimensions are desired.

Extensive documents exist regarding the supplies of the Quartermaster's Warehouse. Some of these might be posted and a number of original items can probably be obtained from the old dump area and from private collections for display. The Firehouse, which has been relocated to its present location, was designed to keep water from freezing to be used in the event of fire. This apparently was a common and major hazard at the fort and the building also contained a hook and ladder truck. This structure documents well the logistical problems of daily living in a frontier setting. An interesting aspect of the Granary is the fact that it housed the bowling alley prior to the construction of the Gymnasium. The NCO Quarters is the only intact dwelling left and, as such, adds much to the overall picture for a tourist.

Areas with few or no remains at the fort but documented by historic data in this report can also be useful for interpretive preparation for the public.

Category 2 building sites, which contain extensive structural remains, contain at least two candidates for incorporation in a fort tour.

Building site #32 (Old Post Exchange and later Signal Corps' Barracks) contains the most extensive above-ground remains in place at the fort. Because of this, and the beautiful view of Eagle Bluff and the Yukon River from this location, this site is of interest to both archeologists and site planners. The area could be cleaned up and the floor, which is intact, could be preserved for viewing. [All artifacts on and under the floor should be systematically collected and areas immediately around the structure (extending at least 10 feet out) should be tested before any preservation activities.]

Building site #36 (Gymnasium), which contained a bowling alley can be identified and would be of general interest, documenting a recreational facility and illustrating the non-frontier-like aspect of the fort toward the end of its occupation.

Categories 3, 4, and 5 buildings (with distinct to very faint or no outlines), include a large proportion (71%) of former fort structures. Several should be prepared for the public.

The Wagon Shed (Building #15) was a very significant structure in the history of the fort since it was related to transportation facilities used in connection with the construction of the telegraph line and in the daily activities at the fort such as procurement of local food through hunting. The Quartermaster's Stables played a similar role.

The Sawmill (Building #23), because of its importance in the construction of the fort and since it was also the location of the first water pump, will be of interest to visitors and its location and limits should be marked. The New Guardhouse, mentioned above, which was located at the main gate to the fort and had a watch tower, should be identified.

The remains of all six original water warming houses, which are in various states of disrepair, would be of

special interest to tourists and are important since other structures (pumphouses) related to the water system are gone. Debris from the wooden encasing is visible today. The route of the waterline, which contained a pipe encased in wood, is paralleled for much of its length by a nice trail.

Since the five remaining structures are located in the western portion of the core area, it is possible that a limited and initial program could focus on restoring roads or boardwalks and preparing interpretive displays in this area. As mentioned earlier, the restoration of the Parade Ground is also an immediate priority and will have to precede additional restoration efforts in the central portion of the core area. Areas of interest on the western (Cemetery and waterline) and eastern (Sawmill) extensions of the core area can be reached by existing roads (Cemetery and Sawmill) or by a trail (waterline).

While the project of restoring Fort Egbert is much complicated by later salvage and unrelated activities (such as the use of the Parade Ground area for an airstrip), which have destroyed the historic setting and resulted in the loss of significant archeological resources, the historic significance of the fort is great enough to warrant future efforts in preparing the area for the public. We hope this report will substantially assist site planners and managers in this worthwhile effort.

APPENDIX I

SUGGESTED HISTORIC SOURCES FOR FURTHER WORK

(in addition to those itemized on pp. 27-32 at NARS)

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA LIBRARY, FAIRBANKS

Andrews, C. L.

C. L. Andrews Collection. (Also at University of Oregon.)

Farnsworth, C. S.

C. S. Farnsworth Collection. University of Alaska Archives.

Mather, Jessie

Historical tape recording, "Here is a Pioneer,"
Tape 4, Side 1, University of Alaska Archives.

McCary, H. D.

Historical tape recording, Tape No. H-27, University of Alaska Archives.

McLean, Dora

Early newspapers on the Upper Yukon watershed:
1894-1907. M. A. Thesis, University of Alaska,
Fairbanks.

Mitchell, W.

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manuscript, University of Alaska Archives.

Sackinger, P. M.

1975 An Historical Survey of Eagle City, Alaska.
Paper prepared for the History Department,
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Wickersham, James

James Wickersham's Diary, Jan. 1, 1900-July 31, 1904.
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ALASKA RESOURCES LIBRARY, ANCHORAGE

Record Group 98 -- Post Returns

Record Group 92 -- Records of the Quartermaster General

Record Group 94 -- Records of the Adjutant General's Office

NATIONAL ARCHIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Record Group 94 -- Medical Histories of the Posts, 1868-1913. Vol. 812, Fort Egbert, Alaska, 1899-1912.

Bureau of Land Management Documents:

Division F -- Railroad rights-of-way and reclamation division. (1878-1935 The Chilkat and Yukon Railroad; The Alaska Yukon Railway and Navigation Co.)

Division K -- Files on abandoned military reservations 1822-1937. (Correspondence and documents.)

CHURCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AUSTIN, TEXAS

Domestic and foreign missionary society papers. Alaska Papers 1884-1939.

Box 8: George Burgess, 1909-1920

Box 29: Burgess Gaither, 1919-1920

Box 92: Alaska and Alaskan missions--printed material

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, EUGENE

James Taylor Gray Collection. (Steamboat builder and pilot; transportation companies in Alaska.)

Fred J. Wood Letters, 1900-1901. (Seattle-Yukon Transportation Company; describes commercial affairs and social life.)

SEATTLE FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER, NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Records of the Office of the Governor of Alaska. Executive Office, central file (1884-1920). (Includes information on military affairs in Alaska.)

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTHERN HISTORICAL COLLECTION

Alexander McIver Collection. (Letters from U.S. Army posts in Alaska.)

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, MENLO PARK

Microfilm of field journals

Additional sources:

U.S. Military Academy Library, West Point, New York.

Clements Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Purcell Record Center, St. Louis, Missouri
(Information on military personnel.)

APPENDIX II
BUILDING SITES--FORT EGBERT CORE AREA

Form 6230-2
(June 1968)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

☐ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☒ Historical

1. Site number

2. Type of site

Fort Egbert Abandoned
Military Reservation

3. State

Alaska

County

District

Fortymile

Resource Area

4. Map reference

Eagle Quad.

5. Location

Fort Egbert is located within the Eagle Historic District and is located just north and west of the city of Eagle townsite.

Section	Township	Range	Meridian	
31	T 1 South	R 33 East	Fairbanks	
36, 25	T 1 South	R 32 East		
6. Land ownership status		7. Other site designations		
Bureau of Land Management		EAG 001 in AHRS system		

8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use

U.S. Military 1899-1911

9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance

The Fort Egbert core area is situated on a terrace south of Mission Creek which extends between the Yukon River and American Creek. Located within an upland spruce-hardwood forest, this was the site of U.S. military activities between 1899 and 1911. The core area once included some 45 buildings which operated for housing, maintenance, health care, construction, communication, and administration of this garrison. In addition, a target range, cemetery, and water pipeline are included in the core area and are associated with the occupation of the fort. This site is significant as one of the first three military installations in the state of Alaska and played a key role in the establishment of communications in Alaska with the building of the overland telegraph line and later wireless station. The site has been the subject of several historic and archeological works as well as restoration projects undertaken for BLM.

10. Area of occupation

Roughly 1/4 square mile

11. Present condition

Varied, see reports below

12. Photo numbers

see reports below

13. Informants and references Grauman, M. n.d. Eagle: Focus on the Yukon. Report to BLM National Trust. n.d. Fort Egbert and Eagle, Alaska, A Preservation Plan Shinkwin, A. et al. 1978. Fort Egbert and the Eagle Historic District: Results of Archeological and Historic Research, Summer 1977. Report to BLM.

4. Recorded by

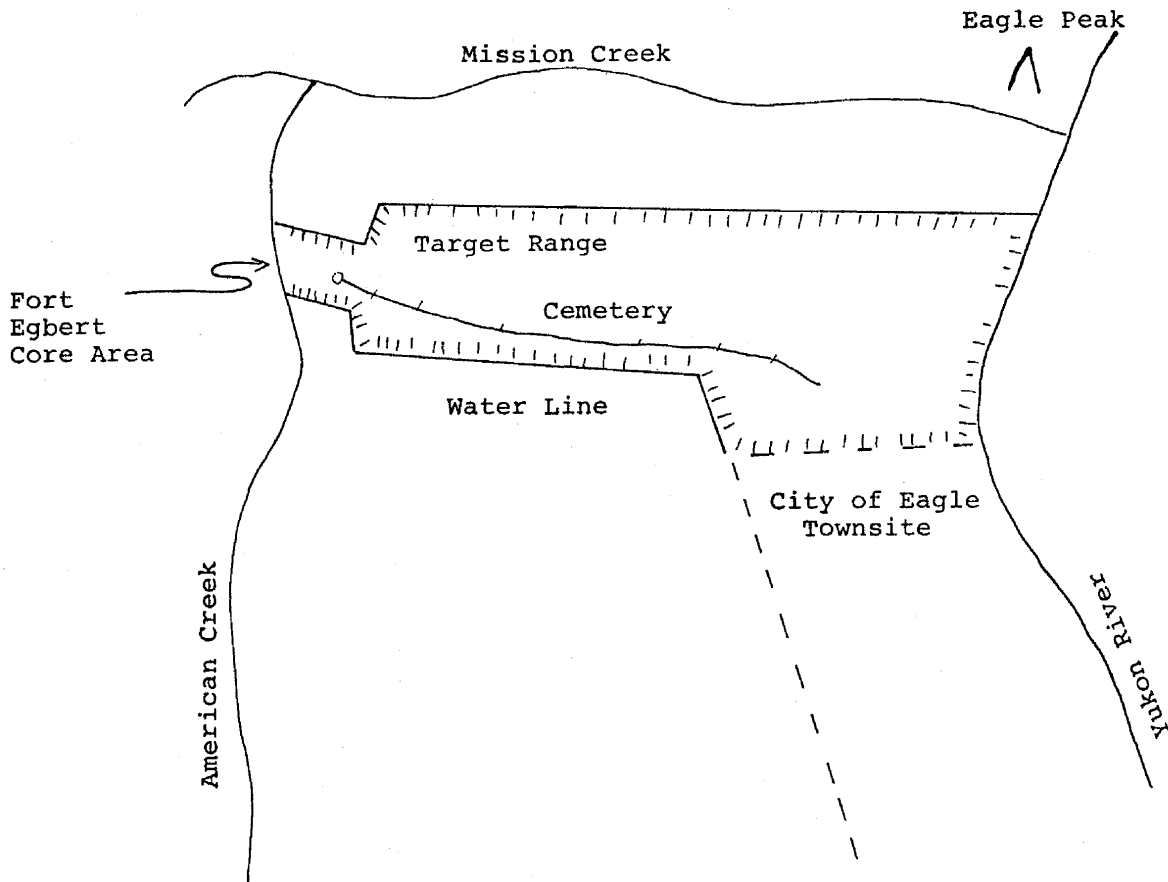
Elizabeth Andrews

Date

June 1977

(continued on reverse)

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☒ Yes ☐ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ unknown

17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☒ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

A preservation plan is currently being implemented by the BLM.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

GPO 840-241

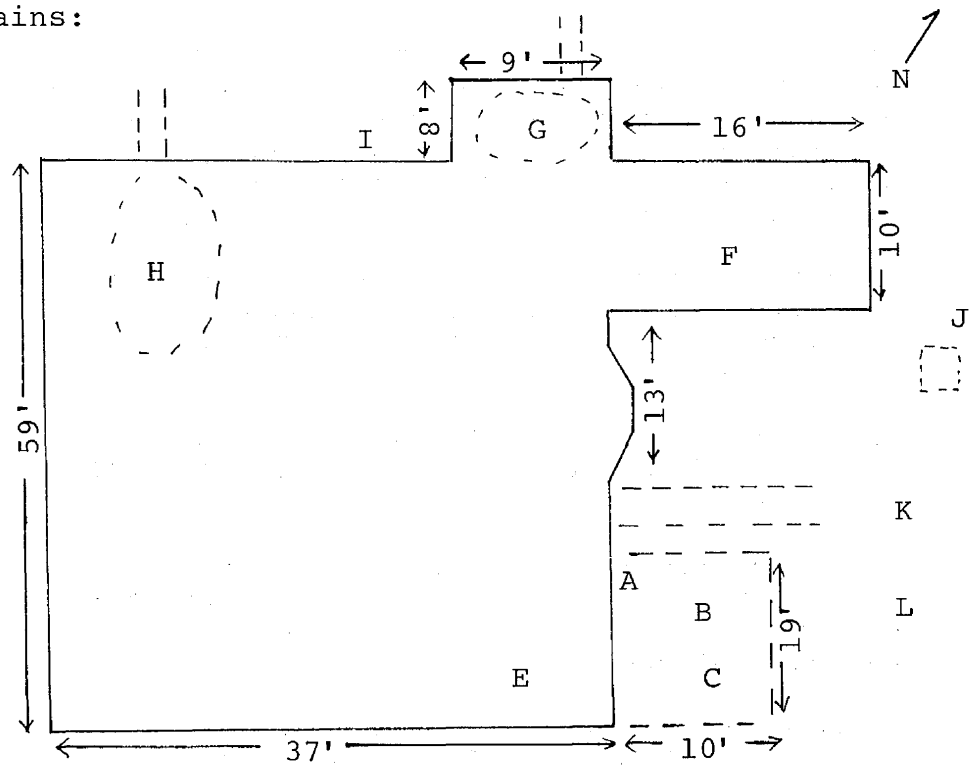
Building No. 1 (Commanding Officer's Quarters)

Location: Fig. 5:1

Description:

Size: The remains of this building measure approximately 59 feet (north/south axis) by 37 feet (east/west axis). This represents the length and width of the main structure. The remains revealed a small appendage 8 feet by 9 feet extending from the north in the northeast of the structure and another extending to the east 16 feet with a width of 10 feet in the northeast corner as well. A bay window 13 feet in length was located along the east wall. A window 19 feet in length was located along the south wall.

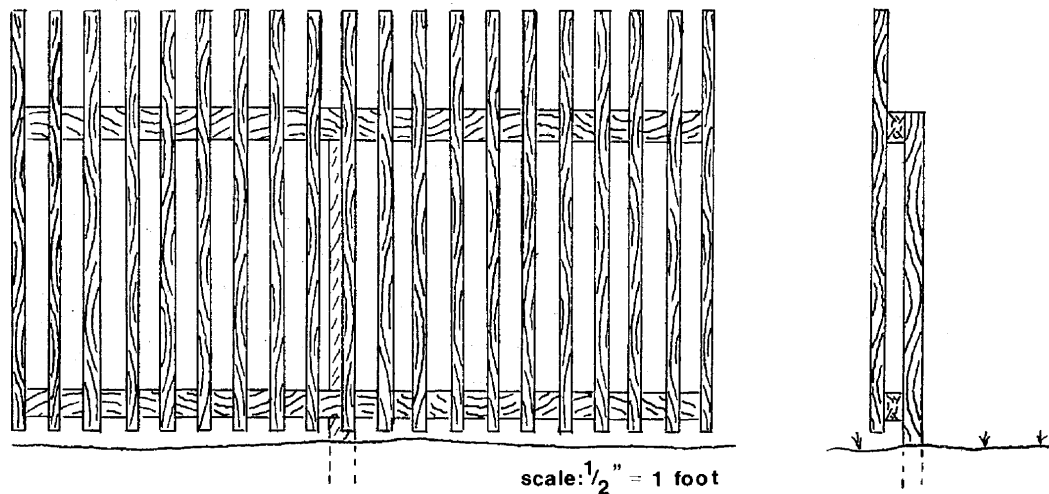
Remains:



NOT TO SCALE

- A: Wire fencing remains were present at this locality. The wire was of the square mesh type made of a heavy gauge wire and bound in the corners. The wire was found all crumpled together. The size of mesh could not be determined.
- B: This area, roughly 10 feet by 19 feet, revealed some structural members in the ground surface. The entire area was overgrown with a moss ground cover.
- C: Nearly 12 feet of picket fence remains were found at this locality. Some galvanized metal flashing of undetermined size was also found near the fence remains.
- D: The outline of the location of the bay window on this building was observed at this point. Structural members from the frame at the base can still be seen in the ground surface and are fairly intact although much decayed. Spruce and birch trees are growing in the site of this room.
- E: Structural members of the floor system are most visible at this point although they are embedded in the ground surface and are in a decayed state.
- F: Structural members of the floor system of this appendage room are still visible in the ground surface.
- G: A deep depression is found within the outline of this room. A shallow ditch extends from the east of the depression to the north to the edge of the bank.
- H: Another deep depression occurs within the outline of this part of the building site. A lead pipe was observed extending horizontally to the north. Similar to the other depression noted above, a shallow ditch extends to the north to the edge of the bank.
- I: Terra cotta chimney fragments were observed at this point.

J: Additional picket fence remains were found 14 feet east of the building site and extended for some 23 linear feet (see sketch). Two fairly square pits were observed to the south of the fence remains. Measurements revealed that vertical members of 1-1/2 by 3 inches were nailed to horizontal pieces 1-1/8 inches square.



K: A shallow ditch extends to the east from the south limit of the bay window. Milled lumber pieces resembling modern pallets used in shipping were found near the eastern limit of the ditch.

L: At this point a large piece of galvanized sheet metal with numerous holes in it the size of stove pipe was found.

In addition to these remains, we recorded a number of items which were observed in the dump located directly over the bank to the north of the building site. The items observed included large water-type jars with a green tint glass, screen window, a gray enamel cake pan, a bottle of dark amber glass, four large wood-burning heating stoves, at least 25 five-gallon cans, cream white stoneware basal sherds, a clear glass bottle with "Curtis Brothers Co., Preservers, Rochester, N. Y." imprinted on it, innumerable cans of

various sizes, "hole-in-top" cans, a lard can, a Hormel ham can, a blue-gray enamel mixing bowl, a dark amber glass bottle with no seam on the neck, and stove pipe.

Condition: The superstructure of Building 1 no longer remains, however, some of the structural pieces of the floor system can still be seen although they are in a very decayed state. Cultural material remains are found in and about the building site as well as in the dump which was probably associated with the occupation of the building. The site is overgrown with spruce and birch trees although the outline of the building is still distinct.

Current Use: There is no apparent current use of this area with the exception of occasional "pot-hunting" in the dump. This area is relatively remote from the areas that most visitors and townspeople venture to and summer foliage tends to disguise its presence during that season.

Historic Data:

Building 1, the Commanding Officer's Quarters or Field Officer's Quarters, was a two-story structure constructed in 1899 at a cost of \$9,202.28 (Anonymous 1902a). This structure which contained 12 rooms was constructed of logs although "rustic" or drop siding was placed over the logs in 1904 (Anonymous 1904). The building had a shingle roof and much of the interior was wallpapered (Anonymous 1902a). It measured 48 feet 3 inches plus 9 feet by 25 feet plus 10 feet plus 4 feet. On a blueprint of the building, the first floor contained a parlor, hall, sitting room, kitchen (with a cellar beneath), two small rooms, and a dining room with a bay window (Anonymous n.d.a). The second floor served as sleeping quarters with five bedrooms, four closets, and an alcove (Anonymous n.d.a). Among the known furnishings within this house were a refrigerator, dining room table with six side chairs and two arm chairs, library desk, and a sideboard (Anonymous 1910a). This building was intended to serve as quarters for the commanding officer of the garrison and indeed it was occupied by then Captain C. S. Farnsworth and his family during 1900 to 1901 while Farnsworth oversaw continued

construction of the newly established fort and survey of the telegraph line (Farnsworth n.d.). During the 1902 annual inspection, however, it was noted that the building was occupied by Commanding Officer Captain McBroom as well as Lieutenant B. J. Tillman, quartermaster, and Lieutenant Fitzpatrick, all of the 7th Infantry (Anonymous 1902a).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that Building 1 was empty at that time. This building was later granted to the Road Commission in 1929 "to dismantle." By 1932, it was still standing and was appraised at \$25 although no bid was made for it at public auction that year (Record Group 49). Sometime later, the Office of Indian Affairs apparently dismantled this building for use in repairing the Indian Office's school. Remaining material could be turned over to the Indians for improving their buildings (Grauman n.d.:45-46).

Photo: C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of
Alaska Archives
C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon
Archives
1977 Field Survey: Roll 12 (21), Roll 13
(2-12)

Building No. 2 (Double Set Officers' Quarters)

Location: Fig. 5:2

Description:

Size: No size of an archeological feature could be determined since there were no surface indications of the building site.

Remains: No cultural, structural, or feature remains were visible on the ground surface.

Condition: The building site has been totally obliterated on the surface. The vegetation in the location of the original site consists of aspen and grass. The building site may have been totally disturbed during the grading of the airfield and/or the construction of the present

Alaska State Highway Department garage located just south of the original site.

Current Use: The area of the original building is currently used for outbuildings and storage associated with the Alaska State Highway Department garage.

Historic Data:

This architecturally impressive building was built to serve as quarters for two married officers and their families, although it is not clear in the quartermaster's records for the fort whether the officers' families ever joined them (Record Group 92). A 1912 map of the fort (Stone 1912) indicated this structure was quarters for lieutenants specifically, although all correspondence for this building simply refers to it as Building 2 or "Double Set Officers Quarters" (Record Group 92). On July 3, 1902, \$4,612 was approved by the Quartermaster General's Office for the construction of this building which was a two-story frame structure of twin quarters. Each set depicted a gambrel roof style and double bay windows on the ground floor with eleven rooms on two levels. On the basis of a C. L. Andrews photograph dated 1905, this building had drop or "rustic" siding to the top of the door on the first level while the remainder of the siding and the roof were shingled (Andrews n.d.). The second story also displayed two dormers on each side.

Based on a blueprint dated March, 1902, and directed by Lieutenant Tillman, quartermaster at Fort Egbert, the doubled set of officers' quarters measured 59 feet 8 inches by 49 feet (Evans 1902). The first story was characterized on each side by a front porch, a parlor with a bay window, a dining room also with a bay window, a kitchen (with an attached porch), a pantry, a bathroom with a bathtub, a vestibule between the main porch at the front and the entry, and a stair hall from the parlor and dining room. The second story for each set had two chambers, each with a closet, a servant's room with closet, a dressing room, a balcony, and hall, and a stairwell to the first level. This building was oriented with the bay windows facing to the north on one set and to the south (or toward the city of Eagle) on the other set with the main entrance on the west. Furnishings included two refrigerators,

two dining room tables, four arm chairs, twelve side chairs, two library desks, and two sideboards (Anonymous 1910a).

The two other structures which were a double set of officer's quarters, Buildings 4 and 28, were almost identical to this building except as noted on their respective data sheets in this appendix.

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that Building 2 was used by the U. S. Signal Corps and archival documents state that they used it for storage (Record Group 49). Its final disposition, however, remains to be determined.

Photo: C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon Archives
1977 Field Survey: Roll 13 (13, 14)

Building No. 3 (Officer's Quarters)

Location: Fig. 5:3

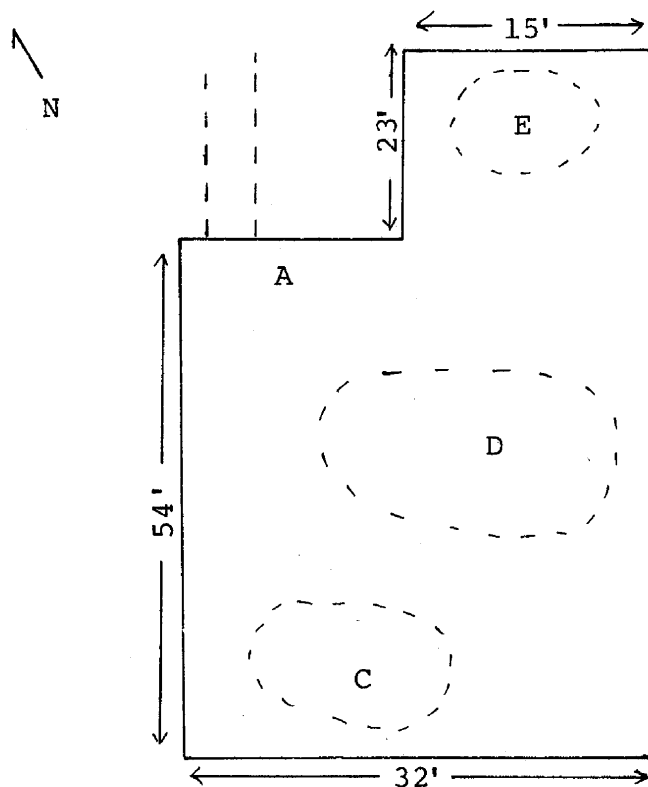
Description:

Size: The remains of this structure measured 54 feet (east/west axis) by 32 feet (north/south axis) with an additional room at the southeast which measured 23 feet (east/west) by 15 feet (north/south).

Remains: See sketch on next page.

A: This area is characterized by numerous metal cans, corrugated sheet metal fragments, and stove pipe fragments. Adjacent to this area in the northeast corner of the building site is a lead pipe embedded in the earth. From this point, a shallow ditch extended east to the bank. All of the debris has apparently been burned.

B: Many Army issue-type cans, most of which had not been opened, were found in this area of the building site. Fragments of corrugated



NOT TO SCALE

sheet metal were also found. All of this debris showed signs of having been burned.

- C: This is a 10-foot deep depression which extends 20 feet along the north/south axis and 8 feet along the east/west axis.
- D: This depression, nearly 12 feet in depth, extends 19 feet (north/south) by 11 feet (east/west).
- E: This is another depression about 3 feet deep and extends 15 feet (north/south) by 8 feet (east/west).

Additional remains in the vicinity of the building site included milled lumber, most of which was charred, blue-green glass fragments which had been melted, a two-hole "mother-of-pearl" button, a saucepan with no bottom, and charred stove pipe fragments. A dump area was found over the bank to the east of the building site and was probably associated with the occupation of Building 3. Material observed at this locality included a fragment of a crockery jug with a handle, leather shoe uppers, bottles, stove pipe, innumerable metal cans, a blue ceramic plate fragment, a crate for explosives stamped "March 10, 1936," metal flashing, a cheese-type crock, rubber boots, and "MJB" one-pound coffee tins. Additional debris extended beneath the ground surface. A BLM benchmark dated 1962 was found in this dump area as well.

Additional remains were observed in the dump over the bank from the site of Building 3. These included a brass bottom tub, a stove top, a stove stack, wooden crates for apricots, corned beef, evaporated milk and varnish, five-gallon cans, many of which were adapted for use as pails, "Old English" wax, a wine bottle, a crate addressed "Signal Corps, Ft. EGBERT," a "Snowdrift Lard" can, a cooking stove, a 12-pound can of "Swift Ham," and several batteries marked "Defiance, Reg. U. S. Pat. Off. 12978, GSB, Trademark, Exide, Registered April 2, 1901, Feb. 3, 1903, Patented Dec. 22, 1903, Dec. 31, 1907, Aug. 8, 1911."

To the west of the structure, a roadcut is still visible extending to Building 1 and in the opposite direction to the current airfield. On the east of the structure, a trail, probably related to the occupation of the fort, extends to the east along the bank.

Condition: The outline of the building site is fairly well-defined and the depressions probably indicate the location of some of the rooms of the original structure. The building appears to have burned at some time because of the charred remains about and the numerous unopened cans. The northeast corner of the site, however, is the only locality

where there is a visible deposit of ashes. Little structural remains were about, although there are considerably more cultural material remains in the vicinity of this site than any of the other building sites on the core area. An aspen forest now covers the area. It is difficult, however, to determine how much the site has been disturbed by local "treasure" hunters.

Current Use: There is no apparent current use of this area with the exception of occasional "pot-hunting" in the dump. This building site is located off of one of the roads which parallels the airfield and is not too visible from a short distance. In addition, summer foliage tends to disguise the presence of the site.

Historic Data:

Built in 1899, Building 3 was one of the first buildings constructed on the fort grounds (Rogers 1900). This log structure with a shingle roof cost \$6,574.42 to construct and consisted of seven rooms in two stories (Anonymous 1902a). The building later had "rustic" or drop siding added (Anonymous 1904). The 1902 annual inspection noted that the dimensions of the building were 63 feet 9 inches plus 20 feet by 25 feet. The blueprint for the building cites the same width, however, the total length was 70 feet 9 inches rather than 63 feet 9 inches (Evans 1900a). The first level included a dining room, pantry, kitchen, hall, and a fuel room (the eastern extension of the structure) while the second story included four bedrooms, three closets, and a hall located over the dining room and kitchen (Anonymous n.d.i). The fuel room was apparently only one story. Furnishings which were noted in a 1910 report included a refrigerator, dining room table with six side chairs and two arm chairs, library desk, and sideboard (Anonymous 1910a). A 1905 photograph shows the later addition of a porch (Andrews n.d.).

This structure was intended to house one married captain or lieutenant although it was not occupied at the time of the 1902 annual inspection. Earlier maps of the fort indicate the building simply as "Officers Quarters" (Fitzpatrick 1901, Kelly 1904, Exley 1905)

although later maps label the building as Captain's Quarters (Peek n.d., Stone 1912).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that Building 3 was utilized by the U. S. Marshall and had been turned over to the Department of Justice in 1924 (Record Group 49). In 1926, the Alaska Road Commission used it as a storehouse. Later, the Office of Indian Affairs apparently dismantled this building for repairs to the office's school but additional material could have been turned over to the Indians for improving their buildings (Grauman n.d.:45-46).

Photo: C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of Alaska Archives
C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon Archives
1977 Field Survey: Roll 13 (15-18), Roll 15 (19)

Building No. 4 (Double Set Officers' Quarters)

Location: Fig. 5:4

Description:

Size: No size of an archeological feature could be determined since there were no surface indications of the building site. Several features in the vicinity of the probable building site were observed and are noted below.

Remains: No cultural, structural, or feature remains were visible on the ground surface at the probable building site. However, near the building site were found a berm, a shallow gulley or ditch, and a square pit. The berm feature measured 11 feet 11 inches on the west limit, 10 feet 7-1/2 inches on the south limit, and 11 feet 8 inches on the east limit. Beginning one foot south of the southeast corner of the berm feature and extending east was a shallow gulley about 8 inches in depth and 12 inches wide which extended for 18 feet. To the southeast of the gulley was a square pit about 2 feet deep

and about 3 feet square with a pile of backdirt on the north margin. It is difficult to determine whether these features are associated with any earlier structures in the vicinity either related to fort activities or otherwise.

Condition: The area is forested with aspen and it is difficult to assess the past disturbance.

Current Use: There is no apparent current use of the area which is located in the woods adjacent to the airfield.

Historic Data:

Building 4 was constructed in 1905-1906 at a cost of \$9,914.85 (Hodgson 1905b). This building was essentially identical to Building 2 and the reader is referred to the data sheet for that building. It is possible that this was the bachelor officer's quarters for which a blueprint was drawn up in 1902 by Quartermaster Tillman (Tillman 1902a) and differed from Building 2 in its omission of a "dead wall," balcony, and rear stairway. According to original maps of the fort, this building was oriented with one set of the bay windows facing toward the city of Eagle and the other set toward Mission Creek. Although a report by the National Trust (n.d.) noted that this building had a basement at one time, architectural plans do not indicate this (Tillman 1902a). As a double set of officers' quarters, it is clear that this building was intended to house two officers, however, in a 1910 report on fort furnishings, it was shown that Building 4 only contained one refrigerator, a dining room table with six side chairs and two arm chairs, a library desk, and a sideboard (Anonymous 1910a). This is perhaps evidence for suggesting that only one officer occupied the building.

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that Building 4 was disposed to the Alaska Road Commission. By Executive Order 4342, the building was included in the area reserved for the Alaska Road Commission and in 1926 served as the superintendent's residence (Record Group 49). Its final disposition, however, remains to be determined.

Photo: C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon Archives (The photo is actually of Building 2 which was virtually identical to Building 4.)

1977 Field Survey: Roll 3 (5, 6)

Building No. 5 (Officer's Quarters)

Location: Fig. 5:5

Description:

Size: No size of an archeological feature could be determined since there were no surface indications of the building site.

Remains: No cultural, structural, or feature remains were visible on the ground surface.

Condition: This building site has been totally obliterated on the surface. The vegetation in the location of the original site consists of short grass. The site may have been totally disturbed during the grading of the airfield since the building was originally located in the middle of the present airfield.

Current Use: The area of the original building is presently used as part of an airfield.

Historic Data:

Building 5 was completed in 1899 at a cost of \$6,411.11 and was constructed of log walls with a shingle roof (Anonymous 1902a). In a July 21, 1900, letter to the Quartermaster General (Rogers 1900), Building 5 was cited as "Lieutenant's Quarters" although the 1902 annual inspection recorded that it was intended as housing for a married captain or lieutenant, but in 1902 was actually occupied by C. A. Trueholtz, a contract surgeon (Anonymous 1902a). On Peek's undated map and Stone's 1912 map of the fort, Building 5 is labelled as "Captain's Quarters." This building was essentially the same in design as Building 3--two stories with seven rooms--but was somewhat smaller with dimensions of 43 feet plus 9 feet by 25 feet with

a porch also added at a later date. As with Building 3, this building was furnished with a refrigerator, dining room table with six side chairs and two arm chairs, library desk, and sideboard (Anonymous 1910a).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that Building 5 was disposed to the U. S. Signal Corps. It served as a radio station and quarters for the radio operator (Record Group 49). In the 1930's, the Alaska Road Commission reportedly salvaged the building (Grauman n.d.).

Photo: C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of
Alaska Archives
C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon
Archives

Building No. 6 (Administration Building)

Location: Fig. 5:6

Description:

Size: No size of an archeological feature could be determined since there were no surface indications of the building site.

Remains: No cultural, structural, or feature remains were visible on the ground surface. No evidence of a gravel walk which once passed in front of the structure was observed.

Condition: The location of the building site has been totally disturbed by the presence of a road from the city to the airfield.

Current Use: This area is used as a road to the airfield.

Historic Data:

This two-story building was constructed during 1899-1900 at a cost of \$3,719.10 (Anonymous 1902a). The first level of the structure was constructed of logs with an attached frame porch while the second story was framed with drop or "rustic" siding and possessed

a shingled hip roof (Evans 1900c). This structure, which measured 23 feet by 34 feet, served as Post Headquarters and housed the commanding officer's office, the adjutant's office, the telegraph office, and an unidentified office on the first floor while the second floor functioned as a court martial and school room (Evans 1900c). By 1909, a fuel shed had been added to the structure (Bellamy 1909). This building, of which no signs remain, was clearly central to the operation and activities of Fort Egbert.

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that Building 6 was used by the U. S. Signal Corps. One archival document added that they used it as a storehouse (Record Group 49). Its final disposition, however, remains to be determined.

Photo: C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon Archives
1977 Field Survey: Roll 2 (14, 15)

Building No. 7 (Old Guardhouse, Ice Storage)

Location: Fig. 5:7

Description:

Size: No size of an archeological feature could be determined since there were no surface indications of the building site.

Remains: No cultural, structural, or feature remains were visible on the ground surface. There was no evidence of a gravel walk which once passed in front of the structure.

Condition: The area of the building site has been disturbed by the cutting of trees and the use of a road to the airfield. Small growth aspen have grown among the tree stumps, but the area of the original building site is visually displeasing.

Current Use: The area has more recently served for the purposes of tree clearing and as a route to the airfield.

Historic Data:

The Old Guardhouse was constructed in 1900 of boards with a shingled gable roof at a cost of \$1,739. This one-story building measured 20 feet 3 inches by 36 feet 6 inches and contained two rooms and two prison cells (Anonymous 1902a) with a porch at the front. Sometime after the New Guardhouse was built in 1905 (Building 33), Building 7 served as an ice storage building. At one point, the area under the porch served as a shelter for the hook and ladder truck later housed at the Firehouse (Moon 1909).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that Building 7 was empty at that time. The building was later sold (Record Group 49). Based on historic photographs of the structure, it appears that this structure with an addition now functions as a private residence in the community of Eagle and should not be confused with the Ice House (Building 10) which was a much taller structure (see photograph of Building 10 within text of this report).

Photo: C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of
Alaska Archives
C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon
Archives
1977 Field Survey: Roll 2 (12, 13), Roll 8
(7-9)

Building No. 8 (Commissary)

Location: Fig. 5:8

Description:

Size: No size of an archeological feature could be determined since there were no surface indications of the building site.

Remains: No cultural, structural, or feature remains were visible on the ground surface. No evidence of a gravel walk which once passed in front of the structure was observed.

Condition: Similar to the building site of Building 7, this area has been disturbed by the cutting of trees and burning in the area. Small growth aspen occur among the tree stumps and the entire area is visually displeasing.

Current Use: This area has more recently been subject to tree clearing.

Historic Data:

Construction of a "General Warehouse" began in 1900 (Rogers 1900) and was occupied by the quartermaster's department until 1901 when the Department Commander ordered it to be designated at the Commissary (Anonymous 1902a). The one-story frame building originally had wood siding but was later altered with the addition of corrugated iron siding and roofing. The building measured 36 feet by 150 feet and contained rooms which functioned as the commissary office, salesroom issue room, an unidentified office, a storeroom, and a warm storage room (Anonymous 1902a). The cost of the building was \$4,520.85.

A 1900-1901 photograph shows that a log cabin was located just south of this building, but no information was found regarding its function and/or occupants (Farnsworth n.d.).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that Building 8 was "salvaged" and in 1927 the Road Commission was ordered to remove the building (Record Group 49).

Photo: C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon Archives

C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of Alaska Archives

1977 Field Survey: Roll 2 (12, 13)

Building No. 9 (Powder Magazine)

Location: Fig. 5:9

Description:

Size: No size of an archeological feature could be determined since there were no surface indications of the building site.

Remains: No cultural, structural, or feature remains were visible on the ground surface.

Condition: There is some contradiction on original fort maps as to the location of this building, however, both areas were investigated by us in 1977 (see historic data below). If the building was located north of the New Guardhouse, then this area has been totally disturbed by a current road which runs from the city to the airfield. If the building was located on C Street west of the New Guardhouse, then this area has only been altered by the growth of aspen since the building was removed.

Current Use: Depending on the location of the original building site (as noted above and below), the area of Building 9 either serves as a road to the airfield or as a storage area for a private resident of Eagle whose home is near the site.

Historic Data:

This one-story frame building with corrugated iron siding and roofing was constructed in November, 1901, to serve as a storage building for "powder and ordnance supplies" (Anonymous 1902a). This small building, only 14 feet by 16 feet, cost \$785.75 to construct (Anonymous 1902a). A 1901 map of the fort noted that Building 9 was a proposed building to be located roughly west of Building 2 and south of Building 5 (Fitzpatrick 1901). A 1904 map also showed the completed building at this site, but also another Building 9 to be located west of the New Guardhouse (Building 33) (Kelly 1904). In a later but undated map, only one Building 9 was shown and this was located west of the New Guardhouse (Peek n.d.). It is possible that the Powder Magazine was initially located near

Building 2 as shown on earlier maps but was later moved to a new site west of Building 33.

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that Building 9 was taken over by the Alaska Road Commission and historic records indicate that it was included in the area reserved for the Alaska Road Commission as stipulated in Executive Order 4342 (Record Group 49). Its final disposition, however, remains to be determined.

Photo: C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon Archives
1977 Field Survey: Roll 3 (13, 14)

Building No. 10 (Ice House)

Location: Fig. 5:10

Description:

Size: This area measures approximately 30 feet (north/south axis) by 40 feet (east/west axis).

Remains: No cultural or structural remains were visible on the ground surface although a sandy feature is still visible and indicates the approximate location of the building.

Condition: This site has been disturbed by the removal of the building.

Current Use: This area is not currently used for any purpose.

Historic Data:

This one-story frame building with a shingle roof was constructed in 1900 at a cost of \$921.45. It measured 25 feet by 46 feet and served as an ice house and for cold storage having one room and a refrigerator (Anonymous 1902a). It reportedly had a capacity of six tons (Bellamy 1909).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that Building 10 was empty at that

time. The Road Commission received permission "to dismantle" the building in 1929, but it was later sold (Record Group 49).

Photo: C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of
Alaska Archives
1977 Field Survey: Roll 2 (8, 9)

Building No. 11 (Quartermaster's Office and Storehouse)

Location: Fig. 5:11

Description:

Size: The remaining feature indicating the original building site of this structure is rather ill-defined. The building which was originally U-shaped is only apparent on the southern wing of the site. This area measures approximately 35 feet (north/south axis) by 91 feet (east/west axis). A stone-lined ditch which ran on the east side of the structure still remains and is presented in another appendix.

Remains: No cultural or structural remains are visible on the ground surface. The only feature remains which are visible are located in the area of the south wing of the original structure.

Condition: Most of the building site, especially the location of the north and east wings, has been disturbed by grading and filling of dirt. The entire area has been cleared of trees and many of the stumps still remain. Cut timbers have been deposited in a large pile in the area of the north wing and a road to the granary (Building 17 and still standing) from the south limit of the airfield also crosses over part of the original building site. Most of the area is visually displeasing.

Current Use: Part of the area of the building site serves as a road as noted above. The area has been used for the clearing and deposition of trees.

Historic Data:

The north wing of this building was one of the first buildings constructed at the fort in 1899 at a cost of \$4,939.30 (Anonymous 1902a). This one-story building measured 24 feet by 84 feet and was divided into three rooms--one for the quartermaster's office, another for the storehouse, and the third for the fire attendant (Anonymous 1902a). This frame building was covered with corrugated iron and had a roof of the same material. This building was shown on one of the earliest maps of the fort dated 1901 (Fitzpatrick 1901). By 1904 a second wing (the east wing) was added to the building as shown on a map dated 1904 (Kelly 1904), however, no information on its construction appears in the quartermaster's records in the National Archives (Record Group 92). The south wing was completed in September, 1909, at a cost of \$3,031.37 and measured 30 feet by 84 feet with a basement (Quartermaster at Fort Egbert 1910). A 1900-1901 photograph shows that two log cabins were located south of this structure and just east of Building 15 (Farnsworth n.d.).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that Building 11 was "salvaged" although the Road Commission did not actually receive permission to salvage it until 1926 (Record Group 49).

It is reported that the Alaska Road Commission later cleared this area for use as a heavy equipment storage area (Peterson 1977). The deposit of cut timbers were associated with an Alaska Road Commission grease rack which was dismantled in 1976 by BLM (Peterson 1977).

Photo: C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of
Alaska Archives
C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon
Archives
1977 Field Survey: Roll 7 (6, 7)

Building No. 12 (Quartermaster's Warehouse) (EAG 024)

Location: Fig. 5:12

Description:

Size: This building measures 25 feet (north/south axis) by 81 feet (east/west axis).

Remains: A log structure with shiplap siding and a corrugated iron roof, this structure is still standing on its original building site and has been stabilized by BLM in recent years.

Condition: Restoration and stabilization activities have contributed to making this building well preserved for the future.

Current Use: This building is not used for any particular purpose other than observation by visitors.

Historic Data:

This building was one of the first thirteen buildings constructed at Fort Egbert in 1899 (Rogers 1900). The one-story structure of two rooms measured 25 feet by 81 feet and was constructed of squared logs with a corrugated iron roof (Anonymous 1902a) at a cost of \$6,547.45. Later drop or "rustic" siding was added. This building was originally designated as the "subsistence warehouse" in a 1900 correspondence (Rogers 1900), but later served as the post commissary before being changed to serve as the quartermaster's warehouse (Anonymous 1902a).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that the disposition of Building 12 was questionable. Today it remains on its original building site.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 7 (4, 5)

Building No. 13 (Shops)

Location: Fig. 5:13

Description:

Size: The feature remains at this locality are combined with those of the site of Building 41 since it is difficult to determine the limits of each. This feature measures approximately 45 feet (north/south axis) by 150 feet (east/west axis).

Remains: No structural remains are present at this site, although a possible bannister segment was found in the area. The feature consists of a large sandy area which possibly indicates where the building was once located. Material debris in the area includes a sawblade, metal stove pipe fragments, galvanized sheet metal fragments, a very large pipe fitting, concrete fragments, and two bricks each with "SNOWBALL" imprinted in them.

Condition: The area has been disturbed by the apparent removal of the building. Although a sandy area generally characterizes the site, there is also spruce and aspen growing at the building site.

Current Use: There is no current use of this area.

Historic Data:

The plans for this building were originally drawn up under the direction of Major P. H. Ray, Commander of the District of North Alaska, in 1899 and was originally designed to serve as shops for a blacksmith, wheelwright, and carpenter, with a room for tin working and for paint (Anonymous n.d.k). The structure was intended to measure 30 feet by 67 feet. It is unclear from the historic documents in the quartermaster's records whether the building was actually built to these specifications. One correspondence noted that the building did house a carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, saddler shop, and tin shop (Bellamy 1909). Also, the wheelwright shop was established about 1902 by Lieutenant William "Billy" Mitchell who was responsible for building the All-American Tele-

graph Line linking Fort Egbert with points along the Tanana River. The shop served to make Mitchell's specially modified sleds, harnesses, and horseshoes designed to prevent horses and mules from freezing as they assisted the men surveying the line in Alaska's backcountry during the winter (Mitchell n.d.). The structure was a frame building with corrugated iron siding and roofing and cost about \$1,600 to construct (Quartermaster General 1902b). The building was apparently constructed sometime between 1902 when a request for building funds was submitted and 1904 when it first appeared on a fort map as completed (Kelly 1904).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that Building 13 was empty at that time although this building was later granted to the Road Commission "to dismantle" (Record Group 49).

Photo: C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of
Alaska Archives
1977 Field Survey: Roll 2 (2-5)

Building No. 14 (Quartermaster's Stables) (EAG 021)

Location: Fig. 5:14

Description:

Size: This building which is still standing measures 30 feet (north/south axis) by 150 feet (east/west axis).

Remains: This frame structure with drop siding and a corrugated iron roof is still on its original building site and is in the process of being stabilized and restored by BLM.

Condition: Restoration and stabilization activities are contributing to the preservation of this structure for future years.

Current Use: This building was used in recent years as a storage area for "antiques" which had been donated by the local population. These items were moved to another fort building (Firehouse) in

May, 1977, because of stabilization work at Building 14 which began at that time.

Historic Data:

The Quartermaster's Stables were built in 1900 and designed to house fifty-three animals and intended to replace a barn which was built the previous year. This barn, constructed sometime before May, 1900, was a one-story building with one room and was built by the troops at no cost to the government except for \$550 for materials (Wright 1900). By July 21, 1900, one letter noted that the "New Stable" was under construction (Rogers 1900). The completed structure was a two-story frame building with a shingle roof and terra cotta chimneys and contained two harness rooms in addition to the fifty-three stalls and two rooms on the second floor for the storage of hay and grain. The hay loft, however, was not constructed until 1901 (Anonymous 1902a, Bellamy 1909). The cost for the construction of this building was \$6,216.48 (Anonymous 1902a). One memorandum noted that new floors were put in the stalls and the exterior of the building painted in 1904 (Anonymous 1904).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that the building was empty at that time. Although the Road Commission was given permission "to dismantle" the building in 1929, it is still standing today.

Photo: See photographs in the section on archeological excavations at Building 14 presented in this report.

Building No. 15 (Wagon Shed)

Location: Fig. 5:15

Description:

Size: The feature which remains at the approximate location of the original building site measures 28 feet (north/south axis) by 68 feet (east/west axis).

Remains: No cultural or structural remains are visible on the ground surface. To the south, opposite the original site of a road were found some material items which may or may not have been associated with the activities at the wagon shed. These items included a five-gallon square can with no top, a dilapidated crate, a large spool for heavy gauge wire, some heavy gauge wire with circular metal pieces for hooking something to, and a large concentration of timbers about 3 inches in diameter and 10 feet long with one end pointed. This latter concentration of pointed timbers may have been used on a pole fence which was originally nearby.

Condition: This feature is not well-defined on the east, south, or west limits although a large sandy area covered with leaves and some grass and willow seem to demarcate the original building site. Along the north limit, an 8-foot embankment is present. In the northeast corner of the site, a large amount of small trees have been dumped.

Current Use: This area does not appear to be presently used for any purpose with the exception of the northeast corner where trees have been dumped.

Historic Data:

On July 3, 1902, the Secretary of War authorized \$1,400 for the construction of the Wagon Shed (Quartermaster General 1902a). This building was a frame structure with a roof of galvanized corrugated iron which had a capacity for 10 wheeled vehicles and 30 dog sleds (Tillman 1902b, Bellamy 1909).

A 1900-1901 photograph taken at Fort Egbert shows a log cabin with a sod roof located east of Building 14 on the site of the Wagon Shed. This log building is probably the structure "near the Quartermaster's Warehouse" which Quartermaster Tillman requested to use for fuel during the winter of 1901-1902 but only received permission from the Quartermaster General in March, 1902, to dismantle (Tillman 1901, Quartermaster General 1902a).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that Building 15 was empty at that time. The Road Commission received permission in 1929 to dismantle the building (Record Group 49).

Photo: C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon Archives

C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of Alaska Archives

1977 Field Survey: Roll 4 (3-6), Roll 7 (8, 9)

Building No. 16 (Noncommissioned Officer's Quarters)

Location: Fig. 5:16

Description:

Size: No size of an archeological feature could be determined since there were no surface indications of the building site.

Remains: No structural or feature remains occur in the vicinity of this building site. Some fragments of stoneware are present on the ground surface but it remains uncertain whether they may have been associated with the occupation of Building 16.

Condition: The building site has been disturbed by burning in the area.

Current Use: The building site forms part of the airfield but has also been the site of timber burning.

Historic Data:

In July 1902, \$1,800 was authorized for the construction of an NCO quarters at Fort Egbert (Quartermaster General 1902b). Several days earlier the Quartermaster General noted that there were five officers at the fort but only three sets of quarters for them. Building 16 was a two-story frame building which between 1907 and 1908 had a 12 by 14-foot wood shed addition built onto the rear of the building. Dimensional

data for the building itself were not found in the quartermaster's records. Building 16 was originally intended to be located at the later site of the New Bakery (Building 22b) as shown on a 1901 map (Fitzpatrick 1901). By 1904 the quarters were shown as completed and were located north of the Granary (Building 17). Unlike the other NCO quarters (Buildings 18 and 19), no outhouse was shown on any of the maps of the fort.

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that Building 16 was empty at that time although this building was later granted to the Alaska Road Commission and sold for \$10 at a public auction in 1932 (Record Group 49).

Building No. 17 (Granary) (EAG 022)

Location: Fig. 5:17

Description:

Size: This building measures 24 feet 3 inches (north/south axis) by 60 feet 4-1/2 inches (east/west axis).

Remains: Building 17 is a frame structure with vertical boards and batting siding and a corrugated iron roof. The structure is still standing on its original building site and has been stabilized and restored by the BLM in recent years.

Condition: Restoration and stabilization activities have contributed to making this building well preserved for the future.

Current Use: The building presently serves as a workshop and storage room for BLM stabilization and restoration activities.

Historic Data:

The Granary was a storage building for up to 200 tons of grain for the work animals at the fort (Bellamy 1909). The building was probably built sometime in 1903 since the \$2,000 allotment approval for its

construction did not occur until November, 1902 (Sanger 1902). Several telegrams had been sent by General Randall at Vancouver Barracks to the Quartermaster General requesting this appropriation. One telegram contained the following justification for the building:

...no granary has been constructed at Fort Egbert. The building heretofore used inadequate. Grain for twenty-five or thirty pack mules and twelve work animals should be kept constantly on hand. The pack animals to be employed in supplying stations on the telegraph line (Randall 1902b).

Sometime prior to the construction of the Gymnasium (Building 36) in 1909, the Granary apparently housed the two-lane bowling alley which was later moved into the Gymnasium (Catts 1908).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that the building was empty at that time. The Road Commission received permission in 1929 "to dismantle" the building which remains standing to this day (Record Group 49).

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 6 (17, 18)

Building No. 18 (Noncommissioned Officer's Quarters)

Location: Fig. 5:18

Description:

Size: No size of an archeological feature could be determined since there were no surface indications of the building site.

Remains: No cultural, structural, or feature remains were visible on the ground surface.

Condition: This building is apparently the building which now serves as the Eagle Museum located on Front Street. Earlier the building functioned as the customs office. It is in good condition except for foundation deterioration and misalignment of sections caused when the building was

moved (National Trust n.d.). The original building site has been disturbed by the grading for the airfield.

Current Use: The building serves as the city museum although the addition of the wood shed has been removed. The building site now functions as part of the airfield.

Historic Data:

Similar to other buildings on the fort grounds, Building 18 is an architecturally impressive frame structure with a combination of drop siding on the first level and a shingled second story. This NCO quarters was originally a one-story structure built in 1900-1901 with dimensions of 16 feet 4 inches by 36 feet 4 inches divided into two rooms (Anonymous 1902a). The cost of construction for this initial structure was \$1,495.30 and although it was intended to serve as quarters for a noncommissioned officer, it was occupied in 1902 by a sergeant and battery sergeant major (Anonymous 1902a). Sometime after the 1902 annual inspection, Quartermaster Tillman drew up specifications for the addition of a second story on Building 18 (Building 19 was also subject to the second story addition) (Tillman n.d.). On a blueprint for this addition, the first floor was to include a kitchen, pantry, parlor, dining room, closet, porch, and hall while the second story would provide two chambers each with a closet and hallway (Anonymous 1902b). Unlike Building 16, both Buildings 18 and 19 are shown on fort maps to have an associated outhouse. During 1907 to 1908, a 12 by 14-foot wood shed was added to the building (Quartermaster at Fort Egbert 1908). This wood shed has been removed from the building which now stands on Front Street in Eagle; however, its location is still well-defined on the side of the building.

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that Building 18 was empty at that time, however, in 1916 the building was transferred to the U. S. Treasury Department for use as a customs office (Record Group 49). It is unclear when the structure was moved to Front Street from the fort.

Photo: C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of
Alaska Archives
1977 Field Survey: Roll 8 (20, 21), Roll 20
(16-18)

Building No. 19 (Noncommissioned Officer's Quarters)

Location: Fig. 5:19

Description:

Size: Building 19 measures approximately 16 feet by
36 feet.

Remains: Building 19 is a two-story structure with
drop and shingle siding and shingle roof located
on its original building site. In recent years,
the building has been stabilized and restored by
BLM. An outhouse, originally located to the west
of the structure, is now located south of Build-
ing 14 (Quartermaster's Stables) where it is
still functional. The outhouse is a frame struc-
ture with a gable roof and tongue and groove
siding and measures 5 feet 11 inches by 5 feet
1-1/2 inches by 8 feet 7 inches in height.

Condition: Restoration and stabilization activities
have contributed to making this building well
preserved for the future.

Current Use: This building is not presently used
except for visitor observation.

Historic Data:

Building 19 is virtually the same structure as Build-
ing 18 and was constructed at the same time although
at a slightly higher cost--\$1,786.30. This building
which was built to serve as quarters for a noncom-
missioned officer was occupied in 1902 by the post
quartermaster and the hospital steward (Anonymous
1902a). In the years following, Building 19 underwent
the same alterations as Building 18 and the reader is
referred to the data sheet for that structure.

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that Building 19 was empty at that time. The building is still standing on its original building site.

Photo: C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of Alaska Archives
1977 Field Survey: Roll 8 (10-13), Roll 9 (3-6)

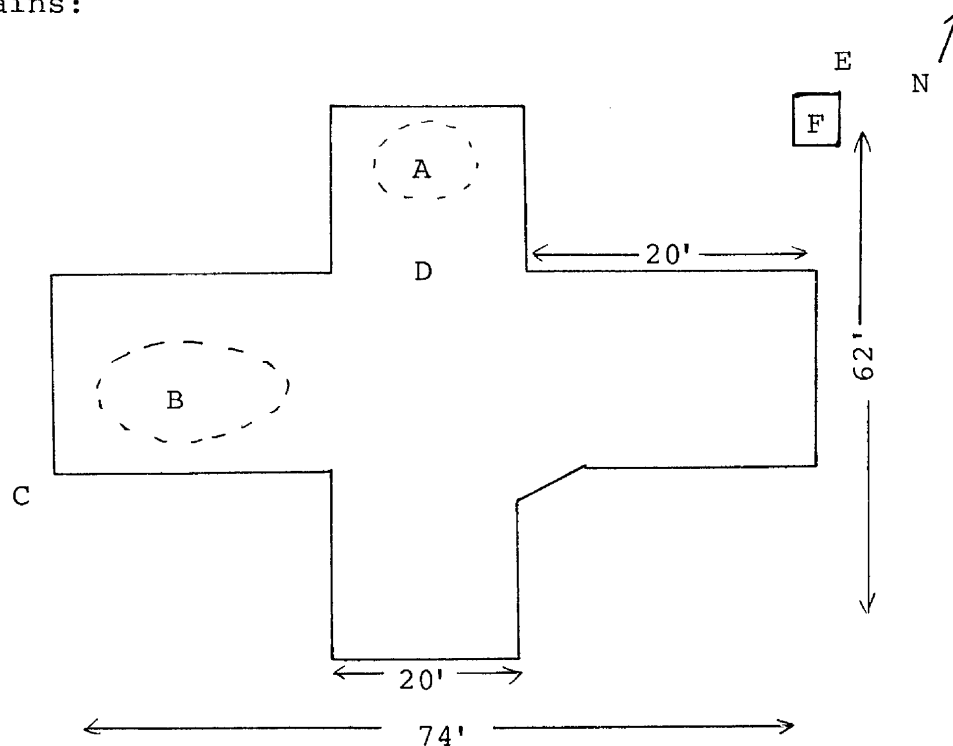
Building No. 20 (Old Hospital, Laundry)

Location: Fig. 5:20

Description:

Size: The building site of this T-shaped structure measured approximately 62 feet (north/south axis) by 74 feet (east/west axis).

Remains:



NOT TO SCALE

- A: This locality of the building site is a depression approximately 4 to 5 feet deep and 9 feet by 5-1/2 feet which has sloughed in on the sides. Some planking debris has fallen into the depression where moss and small aspen trees are growing.
- B: This is a deep pit which is rectangular (12 feet by 18 feet) and partially wood-lined. There is framing lumber in the area as well as stove pipe fragments, galvanized corrugated sheet metal, and some lead piping fallen into the depression.
- C: On the ground surface in this area 6 by 6-inch beams are visible although in a very decayed state. Red painted shingles and fragments are scattered about as are some 1 by 6-inch tongue-and-groove decking pieces.
- D: This part of the building site is characterized by the presence of framing material and stringers about, red painted shingles, and galvanized corrugated iron fragments.
- E: A large piece of machinery is visible in this area and was possibly a boiler although an expert in industrial machinery would have to confirm this. This is located approximately 16 feet from the north wing.
- F: An 8-foot square pit which was probably originally wood-lined was observed at this point. Wooden vertical corner posts about 4 inches square were still present in the pit which was located about 15-1/2 feet from the north wing.

Condition: The site of Building 20 is fairly well-defined, however, there are not a great deal of structural remains left on the ground surface. Some areas of the site have better preserved members than other areas although all are very decayed. Other material debris such as the piping, terra cotta chimney fragments and the possible boiler are present although fragmentary. Small aspen trees are growing in much of the building site.

Current Use: There is no obvious use of this area although visitors and townspeople may venture across the site on occasion.

Historic Data:

Building 20 was one of the first thirteen structures constructed at Fort Egbert in 1899 to 1900 and was initially occupied as the Hospital. The log structure of nine rooms was a one-story building and cost \$7,420.90 to build (Anonymous 1902a). The original floor plan was drawn up under the direction of Captain Farnsworth in 1900 and measured 62 feet by 72 feet (Evans 1900b). This floor plan shows that the west wing of the building served as the kitchen, cook's room, wash room, pantry, and dining room while the north wing functioned as the ward. The east wing was divided into three rooms--one for the steward, another for the office, and a third for the dispensary. The south wing was also divided into three rooms--isolation ward, squad room, and storeroom. The main entrance was located between the east and south wings (Evans 1900b). After the New Hospital was converted into a laundry, however, no information on this conversion was found in the quartermaster's records (Record Group 92).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that Building 20 was empty at that time. In September, 1929, the U. S. Signal Corps received permission to remove the roof and the following month the building was transferred to the Signal Corps. In 1932, the building was sold for \$31 (Record Group 49).

Photo: C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon Archives

1977 Field Survey: Roll 11 (4-13)

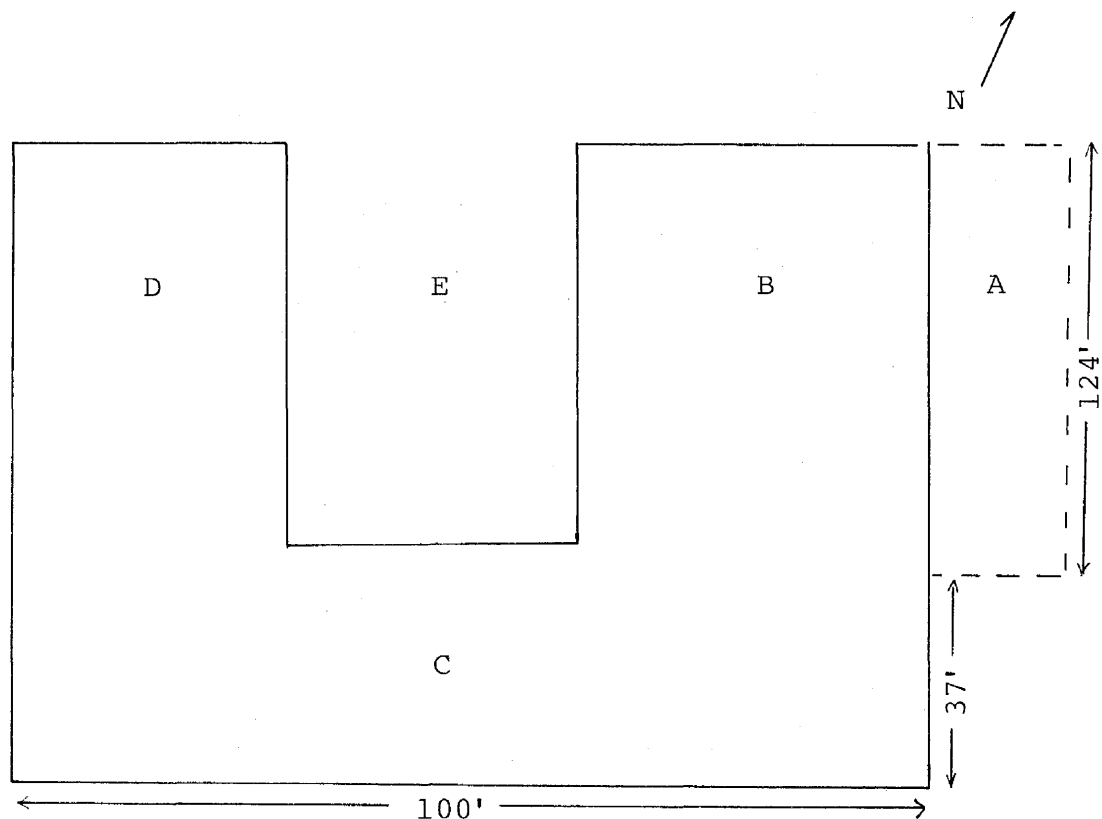
Building No. 21 (Enlisted Men's Barracks)

Location: Fig. 5:21

Description:

Size: The remains of the barracks measure 161 feet (north/south axis) by 100 feet (east/west axis).

Remains:



NOT TO SCALE

A: This represents the remains of the porch which was once attached to the east wing of the barracks. The remains appear to extend about 15 feet to the east although the eastern limit is ill-defined. A decayed

stringer running north/south is visible in the ground surface as are floor planks in the middle of this area. On the north and south, however, few, if any, wood remains are visible.

- B: No flooring or foundational remains are visible in the ground surface for most of the east wing. Structural debris which was visible was found near the center of the wing. A large depression about 19 feet in diameter and 10 to 12 feet deep is present on the south. A crate with "Valdez Alaska" written on it was found in this hole along with a bottle whose seam extended all the way up the neck. While structural debris was minimal in this area, a variety of material items were observed on the ground surface such as metal screening, nails, red-painted shingle fragments, stove pipe fragments, siding, green tint glass fragments, sardine can fragments, and galvanized sheet metal.
- C: This area represents the remains of the south wing of the Barracks. Structural debris from the floor system and sills are most apparent although in a very decayed state. Stringers and joists are visible as are a number of material items such as metal flashing, nails, red-painted shingles, green glass conductors like those used on the telegraph, spikes, stove pipes, red building paper, wallpaper, sash weights, and hole-in-top cans.
- D: Floor system wood remains are visible in the area of the west wing. These remains are not as numerous as those on the south nor are the material items present on the ground surface which included shingles, stove pipe, flashing, wallpaper, a brick, and a shovel blade.
- E: This area is a mound of sorts, being a raised area between the east, south, and west wings. Some structural remains were found on the ground surface of this mound.

The entire building site and its remains are visible in a large sandy area where some birch and diamond willow have grown up.

At a locality to the north of the east wing of the Barracks were found five large radiators although it is uncertain whether these were in fact associated with the Barracks or the nearby Gymnasium.

A sandy depression to the north of the Barracks between that site and the site of the Gymnasium was observed.

About 300 feet east of the Barracks was found a small structure which may have been associated with the Barracks. This small building was located over the bank from the Commanding Officer's Quarters (Building 1) and measured only 4 feet by 10 feet and was about 4 feet in height. The frame building was covered with 1 by 3-inch tongue-and-groove siding and there was no roof remaining. A small doorway was observed on the west wall. The structure had fallen in. A berm extended from this point to the west. The area is typified by grass and willow growing in a boggy area.

Condition: This area has been clearly disturbed by the removal of the building with only portions of the floor system and some material items remaining. The wooden remains are in a very decayed state. Some burning of timbers has taken place to the south of the site where large burn piles remain making the area visually displeasing. It is difficult to assess how much artifact collecting has taken place at this site which is the most obvious and accessible ruin on the fort grounds.

Current Use: Part of the area has been used for the burning of timber debris while the remainder apparently serves only for visitor observation. Artifact collecting by townspeople and visitors probably occurs here as well. A portion of the barracks which was

transported to Fort Yukon in the 1920's
or 1930's now serves as a hotel.

Historic Data:

Construction of the Enlisted Men's Barracks began in 1899 when the east wing was constructed to serve as quarters for the sixty men on duty at the fort at that time (Quartermaster General 1899a). This wing was a two-story structure built of squared logs and had a corrugated iron addition which provided an area for the washrooms and bathrooms (Wright 1900). The nearly \$10,000 structure which measured 27 feet (east/west axis) by 100 feet (north/south axis) provided a kitchen, dining room, latrine, and veranda on the first level while the second floor included a large dormitory area along with a lavatory with five toilets and wash basins, and a urinal (Anonymous n.d.b, Anonymous n.d.d). The following year the south wing was added to meet the housing demands of the infantry which had increased to 104 men (Anonymous n.d.h, 1902a). This wing which had the same dimensions as the east wing was also a two-story frame structure and cost \$11,584.93 to build (Anonymous 1902a). A 1900-1901 photograph shows that a porch was built on to this addition at that time (Farnsworth n.d.). One blueprint for a proposed "L" addition to the barracks approved by Major Ray showed the addition provided a reading room, store room, washroom, barber's room, tailor's room, two baths, and a gymnasium (Anonymous n.d.g). There is no information, however, whether any of the rooms of the Barracks ever served any of these functions.

A blueprint for a porch to be added onto the east wing of the Barracks and dated March 14, 1903, stipulated the addition to be 108 feet long (Anonymous n.d.e). No records were included in the Quartermaster's Records indicating whether the addition was actually constructed although one photograph shows a porch around the east, south, and west limits.

By May, 1904, a request was made to the Quartermaster General for "weather boarding" (drop siding) for the Barracks (Hodgson 1904c). It was noted that the logs used in construction had warped and shrunk and the resultant cracks filled with oakum. The oakum, however, was a fire hazard and it was thought that the

siding should reduce the danger of fire and at the same time make the buildings warmer.

During the winter of 1904-1905, a sewer line from the barracks was installed as an experiment. This sewer line ran from the washroom of the Barracks and consisted of a pipe which was boxed in and kept warm by a "blue-flame" or wickless stove which circulated hot air. This stove was located in a small structure called a "man-hole" (warming house) by the Commanding Officer (Scher 1905a, Plummer 1905b). This system apparently functioned with success.

The west wing was completed in 1905 (National Trust n.d.). Details regarding this addition were not present in the Quartermaster's Records.

In August, 1905, B. T. Scher, post quartermaster, requested \$1,504 for the construction of new latrines at the Barracks. The money was allocated in November (Quartermaster General 1905a). The new latrines were built onto the back of the second story of each wing while the area beneath on the first level was to serve as storage for garbage cans. The new latrines featured "latrine troughs" which were filled with water from the water wagon (Scher 1905c). The contents of the troughs were "drained into sanitary carts and hauled away once or twice daily" (Scher 1905c). A "crude carbolic acid" was used to disinfect and deodorize the latrines. These additions reportedly measured 14 feet 7 inches by 26 feet on the east wing and 13 feet 4 inches by 26 feet on the west wing and only cost \$847.55 to construct (Quartermaster at Fort Egbert 1907).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that the Barracks were empty at the time. This building was transferred to the Alaska Road Commission within the War Department (Record Group 49, National Archives). Sometime during the 1920's or 1930's, one wing was dismantled and rafted downriver to Fort Yukon where it was reassembled. It now functions as a hotel.

Photo: C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of
Alaska Archives
C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon
Archives
1977 Field Survey: Roll 10 (2-11), Roll 15
(17, 18)

Building No. 22a, b (Old and New Bakery) (EAG 026)

Location: Fig. 5:22a, b

Description:

Size: Old Bakery: No size of an archeological feature could be determined since there were no surface indications of the building site.

New Bakery: The concrete platform which indicates where the structure once stood measures 20 feet (north/south axis) by 30 feet (east/west axis). Another feature directly to the south of this measures 9 feet by 30 feet and may have been associated with the original building.

Remains: Old Bakery: No material, structural, or feature remains were visible on the ground surface.

New Bakery: A concrete slab, 20 feet by 30 feet, is the most prominent remain at this building site. Slightly off-center are the remains of an oven which measured 3 feet by 2 feet 7 inches and was made from bricks and concrete. Some glass fragments were observed on the concrete slab. Along the west limit of the concrete at the outside is a decayed wood structural member while on the southwest limit were found some decayed pieces of siding. About 20 feet from the northwest corner of the concrete platform were found a lard can, a five-gallon can which had been cut in half and made into a pail, and some milled lumber nailed to a tree that possibly functioned for a clothesline. A large unidentifiable piece of iron machinery was found near the northeast corner of the building site.

Condition: Old Bakery: The building site of the Old Bakery is presently overgrown with aspen trees.

New Bakery: The building site is partially cracked and decomposed. The oven near the center of the concrete slab is fairly well defined although it has been disturbed in part. The community center at Eagle Village, which was the original bakery structure, appears in good

condition, although a qualified person should examine the building and determine its state of preservation.

Current Use: Old Bakery: This building site coincides with the airfield and adjacent road.

New Bakery: There is no use of the building site other than visitor observation. The community hall at Eagle Village serves a variety of functions in that community--potluck dinners, council and village meetings, dances, and church gatherings.

Historic Data:

Old Bakery: The Old Bakery (Building 22a) was one of the first structures constructed at the fort in 1899 (Rogers 1900). This one-story structure measured 20 feet by 30 feet and was a frame building with corrugated iron siding and roof and was divided into three rooms (Anonymous 1902a). It cost \$1,565 to construct. The bakery was located south of the Barracks (Building 21) and west of the Commanding Officer's Quarters (Building 1) as shown on a 1901 map of the fort (Fitzpatrick 1901). A 1904 map of the fort, however, places the bakery to the east of the Barracks approximately where the road to Mission Creek is shown on other maps (Kelly 1904). A plat map of the fort shows the Old Bakery at the same location (Anonymous n.d.p). Photographs of the bakery taken in 1900-1901 show that the bakery was actually located south of the Barracks as indicated on the 1901 map (Farnsworth n.d.). This building burned in September, 1904 (Hodgson 1904d).

New Bakery: Little information on the New Bakery is available in the quartermaster's records (Record Group 92). Following the burning of the Old Bakery, a request for \$1,200 was made for the construction of a new one. No dimensional or construction data were found for this building which was located north of Building 19 (NCO Quarters). One report noted that the building had three rooms and a wood shed (Bellamy 1909). One of the later maps of the fort showed that the building was a frame structure, however, the building was actually a log structure as evidenced by the existing structure in the Village (Peek n.d.). Also the log structure is larger than the concrete

platform present at the site of the New Bakery. A photograph taken of the bakery by a resident of Eagle in 1930's also confirms this.

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that the building was empty at that time. In 1929, the Road Commission received permission to dismantle the building but sometime later it is clear that the building was moved to Eagle Village.

Photo: C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of
Alaska Archives
George Beck (personal photographs), Eagle,
Alaska
1977 Field Survey: Roll 9 (9-16), Roll 17
(14, 16)

Building No. 23 (Sawmill)

Location: Fig. 5:23

Description:

Size: The feature which defines the approximate location of this building measures 55 feet (north/south axis) by 101 feet (east/west axis).

Remains: This feature is rather ill-defined although it is marked by a slight depression in the ground surface. In the northwest corner of the feature is a wood-lined pit which measures 9 feet by 5 feet and is about 4 feet deep. A ladder descends into the pit where the walls are reinforced with wood planks nailed to vertical posts. A large piece of iron machinery, possibly a fly wheel, was found near the southwest corner of the building site. To the east, in the cut river bank, were observed sawdust, cans, broken glass, squared logs, and log debris coming out of the bank beneath the ground surface. A square wooden drainpipe was also seen in this area. To the north of the site is a large area which is dense with sawdust. No structural pieces were visible on the ground surface.

Condition: The entire mill area is overgrown with a dense growth of alder, rose bushes, and a few birch trees. It is difficult to determine if the building site was obliterated when the building was removed or whether the natural processes of the growing vegetation have contributed to obscuring the building site.

Current Use: There is no current use of the area with the exception of a trail which follows the bank along the river. In the past some of the birch trees in the area have been stripped for their bark to be used in the manufacturing of material items.

Historic Data:

The sawmill was one of the first thirteen structures built at Fort Egbert in 1899 and itself was a necessity for the milling of wood for the construction of many more. The two-story building not only served as a sawmill but also as the pumping plant for the water supply (Anonymous 1902a). The corrugated iron structure measured 34 feet by 100 feet and cost over \$10,000 to build.

The sawmill was located on a site previously occupied by Athapaskan Indians. The reader is referred to the data sheet for this site which appears in another appendix.

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that the sawmill was salvaged, however, the Road Commission did not officially receive permission to salvage the building until 1927 (Record Group 49). One historian has noted that the city of Eagle was granted the timbers from this building for use in repairing bridges and the town hall (Grauman n.d.:44).

Photo: C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of Alaska Archives
1977 Field Survey: Roll 13 (19, 20), Roll 14 (3-5)

Building No. 24 (Civilian Employees' Quarters)

Location: Fig. 5:24

Description:

Size: The remains of this building extend 50 feet (east/west axis) by 24 feet 4 inches (north/south axis).

Remains: Throughout most of the building site, remains of the floor and foundational system are visible on or in the ground surface. Two intersecting depressions along each axis are evident within the building site. Near the northwest corner of the structural remains a terra cotta chimney fragment was found. Flashing for stove pipe was found about 16 feet in a diagonal line from the southeast quarter. A nearly square pit was observed near the southwest corner of the site.

Condition: The structural remains of this building are present but in a very decayed state. There are still sufficient timbers to determine the method of construction of the floor and foundation systems. Small and large aspen are growing within the limits of the building site. The site has probably been subject to some disturbance by visitors and/or townspeople crossing the site on foot.

Current Use: There is no apparent use of this area.

Historic Data:

The Civilian Employees' Quarters was one of the first thirteen structures built at Fort Egbert and was constructed in 1900 (Rogers 1900). This one-story building was a frame structure with a shingle roof and measured 24 feet by 40 feet and was divided into three rooms (Anonymous 1902a). The nearly \$2,000 building served as quarters for up to 16 men (Bellamy 1909). A blueprint for a building for civilian employees--"teamsters and packers"--was drafted under the direction of Major P. H. Ray and was intended to provide a dormitory, kitchen, storeroom, and dining room for such employees (Anonymous n.d.f). This proposed

building reveals the same dimensions as the finished structure; however, it is uncertain whether the arrangement of rooms as shown on the blueprint was followed during the actual construction.

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that this building was empty at that time. In 1929, the Road Commission was granted permission "to dismantle" the structure.

Photo: C. S. Farnsworth Collection, University of
Alaska Archives
1977 Field Survey: Roll 5 (18-21), Roll 6
(3, 4)

Building No. 25 (Engineer's Quarters)

Location: Fig. 5:26

Description:

Size: No size of an archeological feature could be determined since there were no surface indications of the building site.

Remains: No structural remains were found. In the probable vicinity of this building site were found a barrel stave and a five-gallon can. Two abandoned wooden boats were also observed in the area.

Condition: The probable area of the building site is overgrown with dense vegetation consisting of alder and rose bushes. This is also a very moist, boggy area and it is difficult to determine whether the building site was obliterated sometime after the building was abandoned or whether the natural processes of the growing vegetation have contributed to obscuring the building site.

Historic Data:

There is virtually no information on this structure in the quartermaster's records (Record Group 92). A 1901 map of the fort shows this building located near the Sawmill (Building 23) on the right side of the

road as one approaches Mission Creek (Fitzpatrick 1901). A 1904 map, however, indicated that the building was on the opposite side of the road from the Sawmill (Kelly 1904).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that this building was sold; however, other documents indicate that the Road Commission only received permission to salvage it in 1927 (Record Group 49).

Building No. 26 (Commissary Warehouse)

Location: Fig. 5:26

Description:

Size: No size of an archeological feature could be determined since there were no surface indications of the building site.

Remains: No cultural, structural, or feature remains were visible on the ground surface.

Condition: This building site has been completely obliterated by the present road and airfield.

Current Use: This area serves as part of the road along the west limit of the airfield and as part of the airfield itself.

Historic Data:

There is very little information on this structure in the records of the quartermaster. A 1901 map of the fort does not show this building although by 1904 it appears as a completed building on that map (Fitzpatrick 1901, Kelly 1904). One of the later maps of the fort indicated that the building was a frame building with corrugated iron siding and roofing (Peek n.d.).

A 1925 map of the fort drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that the building was empty at that time. In 1929, the building was turned over to the Deputy Marshall to remove (Record Group 49).

Photo: C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon
Archives
1977 Field Survey: Roll 8 (20, 21)

Building No. 27 (Oil House)

Location: Fig. 5:27

Description:

Size: The cultural feature which remains at the site of this building measured 14 feet (east/west axis) by 27 feet (north/south axis).

Remains: No cultural debris or structural remains were visible on the ground surface. The feature noted above was indicated by a shallow depression. To the west of the feature was a pit which measured 2 feet 6 inches by 8 feet 4 inches and another square pit which was smaller was located in a diagonal line to the southwest of the main feature. A berm extended to the west of the feature running north/south and turned to the east southwest of the feature. This berm possibly indicates the fence line of the pole fence which was located in this general area.

Condition: The building site has been disturbed to some extent by the removal of the building. Large aspen trees and rose bushes are growing in the depression which remains.

Current Use: This area does not appear to be used at the present.

Historic Data:

Little information on the construction and use of this building is found in the quartermaster's records. The building was completed in 1905 along with five other buildings on the fort at a cost of \$407 (Hodgson 1905b).

A 1925 map of the fort drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that this building was salvaged.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 7 (10, 11)

Building No. 28 (Double Set Officers' Quarters)

Location: Fig. 5:28

Description:

Size: No size of an archeological feature could be determined since there were no surface indications of the building site.

Remains: No structural or feature remains were visible on the ground surface at the probable building site. A wooden ground leveller with iron spikes was found near the building site but it is difficult to determine if it was once associated with any fort-related activity.

Condition: The area is forested with aspen and it is difficult to assess the past disturbance.

Current Use: There is no apparent current use of the area which is located adjacent to the southern limit of the airfield.

Historic Data:

Building 28 was constructed in 1905-1906 at a cost of \$10,080.71 (Bellamy 1909). This building was essentially identical to Building 2 and the reader is referred to the data sheet for that building in this appendix. According to original maps of the fort, this building was oriented with one set of the bay windows facing toward the city of Eagle and the other set toward Mission Creek. Although a report by the National Trust (n.d.) noted that this building had a basement at one time, architectural plans did not indicate this (Evans 1902). As a double set of officers' quarters, it is clear that this building was intended to house two officers. According to one map, this building was occupied by lieutenants (Stone 1912).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that this building was salvaged although it was not officially turned over to the Road Commission until 1928 (Record Group 49).

Photo: C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon
Archives (the photo is actually of
Building 2 which was the same style and
construction)
1977 Field Survey: Roll 1 (14, 15), Roll 2
(17-21)

Building No. 29 (Telegraph Office)

Location: Fig. 5:29

Description:

Size: No size could be determined since no archeological feature was visible on the ground surface.

Remains: No cultural, structural, or feature remains were present in the area of the building site. No evidence for the boardwalk which once passed in front of this building could be seen.

Condition: This area is characterized by the small aspen and spruce trees which have grown up in the area since the building was removed. It is difficult to determine the exact nature of disturbance of the building site in the past.

Current Use: There is no current use of this area.

Historic Data:

This one-story frame structure was similar in style to Building 30 (New Post Exchange) which was located next to it. This building was completed in March, 1905, at a cost of \$1,373 (Hodgson 1905b). The structure contained three rooms all of which presumably functioned as part of the telegraph station.

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that this building was salvaged.

Photo: C. L. Andrews Collection, University of
Oregon Archives

Building No. 30 (New Post Exchange)

Location: Fig. 5:30

Description:

Size: The feature remains at this building site measure approximately 70 feet (north/south axis) by 22 feet (east/west axis).

Remains: There are no structural remains at this site, but a large sandy area is evidence of the site where the building once stood. The only cultural remains in the vicinity of the building site are some brick fragments. Two bricks which are broken possess the letters "I.C." which are imprinted into the brick and a third brick fragment is imprinted with the letters "A R R" and still possesses some of the mortar used for binding.

Condition: The building site appears to have been levelled following the removal of the building. The site is a large sandy area and small aspen trees have grown up about the perimeter.

Current Use: There is no current use of this locality.

Historic Data:

The New Post Exchange was a two-story frame building with a hip roof and drop siding and served as a place where the military personnel could enjoy their leisure time. The building first appeared as a proposed building on a 1904 map of the fort (Kelly 1904) and was probably built sometime during that year or the next. A blueprint for the New Post Exchange shows that it measured 30 feet 6 inches by 48 feet with the first level divided into six rooms: office, lunch room and counter, kitchen, store, counter, and store-room (Anonymous n.d.c). The second story was intended to be used as a pool area (Anonymous n.d.j).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that the New Post Exchange was empty at that time. The Road Commission received permission "to dismantle" the structure in 1929 (Record Group 49).

Building No. 31 (Hay Shed)

Location: Fig. 5:31

Description:

Size: The feature which indicates the approximate building site measured 40 feet (east/west axis) by 121 feet (north/south axis).

Remains: No cultural or structural remains are visible and the building site is indicated only by a sandy depression which is rather ill-defined. No evidence of a corral fence which was once on the north and west was observed. To the west of this feature beside the road were found the tracks for some type of tracked vehicle.

Condition: The building site has been disturbed at some time in the past and it is clear from surface markings that "cats" and loaders have crossed the area and possibly have contributed to making the feature appear longer than it was previously. The southern end of the building site has been obliterated by the road which now extends from the airfield west to the Taylor Highway.

Current Use: The only use of the area which is evident is the portion of the road along the southern limit of the building site. Some use probably by the Alaska Road Commission has also occurred and is indicated by the track remains west of the feature.

Historic Data:

There is little information on the construction of the Hay Shed. On a 1904 map of the fort it is not shown although a 1905 map indicates it as a proposed structure (Kelly 1904, Exley 1905). A later map of the fort shows the building was completed and notes that it was a corrugated iron structure (Peek n.d.). In 1905, a request was made for \$528.30 to build the Hay Shed which had a capacity of 150 tons (Hodgson 1905b, Bellamy 1909).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that the disposition of this building was questionable.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 5 (12, 13), Roll 6
(7, 8)

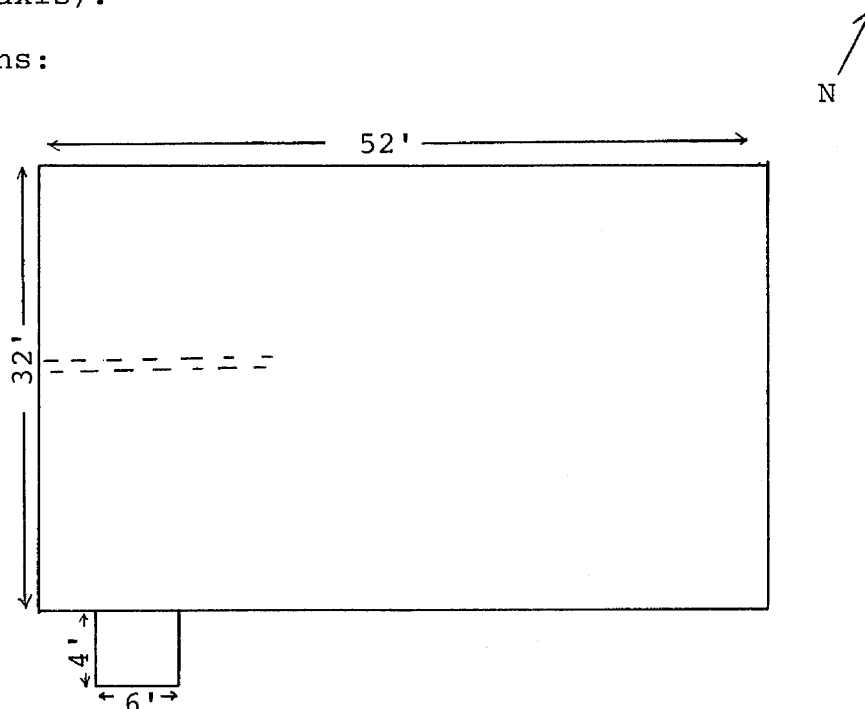
Building No. 32 (Old Post Exchange, Signal Corps Quarters)

Location: Fig. 5:32

Description:

Size: The nearly intact floor remains of this building indicates that the structure measured 32 feet 3 inches (north/south axis) by 52 feet (east/west axis).

Remains:



NOT TO SCALE

The entire floor and foundation system of this building is virtually intact and provides a clear picture of the size of the building, the building materials, and construction techniques employed in its construction. Such structural pieces reveal that 2 by 7-1/2-inch headers were placed on piers, the subfloor consisted of 1 by 8's laid diagonally with 1 by 6-inch and 1 by 4-inch

tongue-and-groove decking on top with rough cut 2 by 4's used for wall studs. A partition wall plate can still be seen in the western half of the building. Additional remains included roof fall, siding, red construction paper, galvanized iron placed on the floor probably where a stove was, and material items associated with the operation of the telegraph such as glass and metal conductors. In addition, the road which passed by this structure toward the hospital (on the west) from the gym (on the south) is clearly visible. A pit measuring about 4 feet by 5 feet was found located about 65 feet from the southwest corner of the building remains and may have been associated with the occupation of this building. Some trash is located over the bank on the east side of the building.

Condition: Much of the superstructure has been removed although some remains are still present on the floor of the building. The floor and foundational remains appear to be in good condition although the piers beneath the surface are probably decayed. A qualified person, however, should examine the structure which remains. It is difficult to determine the extent of disturbance in the past. In relation to most of the other building sites on the fort, this site has the most visible and best preserved remains. These remains have been disturbed the least by natural processes or human activities.

Current Use: There is no apparent use of this area.

Historic Data:

The location of Building 32 near the edge of the bank provides one of the most outstanding views of the Mission Creek valley, Eagle Bluff, and the Yukon River as anywhere on the core area of Fort Egbert. This was originally the site of the Old Post Exchange which was constructed sometime between 1900 and 1901 and was initially designated as Building 25 on a 1901 map (Fitzpatrick 1901). On a blueprint of the building approved by Captain C. S. Farnsworth, the Old Post Exchange is shown as an architecturally impressive one-story frame building with "rustic" siding and a shingled Boston hip roof (Evans n.d.). This building

which measured 32 feet by 52 feet was divided into six rooms and had two "storm house"-type entries according to the architect's plans (Evans n.d.). The rooms included a kitchen, canteen, lunch room, billiard hall, storeroom, and office. A letter of 1905 from the post quartermaster to the adjutant at the fort indicates that the building only had five rooms (Quartermaster at Fort Egbert 1905). In this same correspondence, the quartermaster recommended the purchase of this building for \$300 from the "firm" of Bryant and Powers to provide a building for the Signal Corps (Quartermaster at Fort Egbert 1905). On a 1904 map, this building is cited as "Building Belonging to Co. E 7th Infty." (Kelly 1904). Its capacity was noted as 10 men (Bellamy 1909).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that it was empty at that time. In 1929 the building was transferred to the Alaska Road Commission "to dismantle," however, it was later sold in 1932 for \$35 (Record Group 49).

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 11 (18-21), Roll 12 (2-9)

Building No. 33 (New Guardhouse and Main Gate)

Location: Fig. 5:33

Description:

Size: The remaining feature indicating the approximate location of this building measures 15 feet (north/south axis) by 40 feet (east/west axis).

Remains: No structural remains are evident on the ground surface although a depression feature about 3 feet deep is apparent. Some cultural debris was found about 20 feet from the southwest corner of the feature. It is difficult to determine, however, whether this material was once associated with the New Guardhouse or any other fort-related activities. This material consists of some stove pipe and milled planks nailed to a parallel set of logs.

No evidence was found for a picket fence which once extended along C Street nor was there any indication of the main gate to the fort which was on C Street in a diagonal line some 50 feet from the southeast corner of the New Guardhouse.

Condition: The eastern portion of the building site appears to have been obliterated by the gravel and dirt road which occurs at this point. The remainder of the feature is covered with natural vegetation.

Current Use: The eastern portion of the building site is now used as a road between the city and the airfield.

Historic Data:

The New Guardhouse was completed by mid-October, 1905, and provided the fort with a structure which had a capacity for 30 prisoners and a tower intended to serve as a "sentinel...to discover breaking out of fires immediately" and for keeping a "vigilant watch over the buildings of the post" (Plummer 1904b, Bellamy 1909). The over \$4,500 log building with "rustic" siding and a shingled hip roof measured 45 feet by 45 feet with a 10-foot square tower (Scher n.d.a, n.d.c). A 15 by 33-foot basement was also reported. The first level provided two 6 by 8-foot cells, a large prison room and the blueprint for the building noted that additional rooms served as the "Commander of the Guard's Room," the room for the "Paymaster's Safe," and a room for tools (Scher n.d.a). Attached to the ground floor were a wood shed and a "dry earth closet" or toilet room (Scher n.d.a).

A 1912 map of Fort Egbert shows that the main gate was located on C Street about 50 feet southeast of the New Guardhouse (Stone 1912).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that the New Guardhouse was disposed of to the Alaska Road Commission and was included in the area reserved for the Road Commission by Executive Order 4342 (Record Group 49).

Photo: C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon Archives

1977 Field Survey: Roll 1 (16-21)

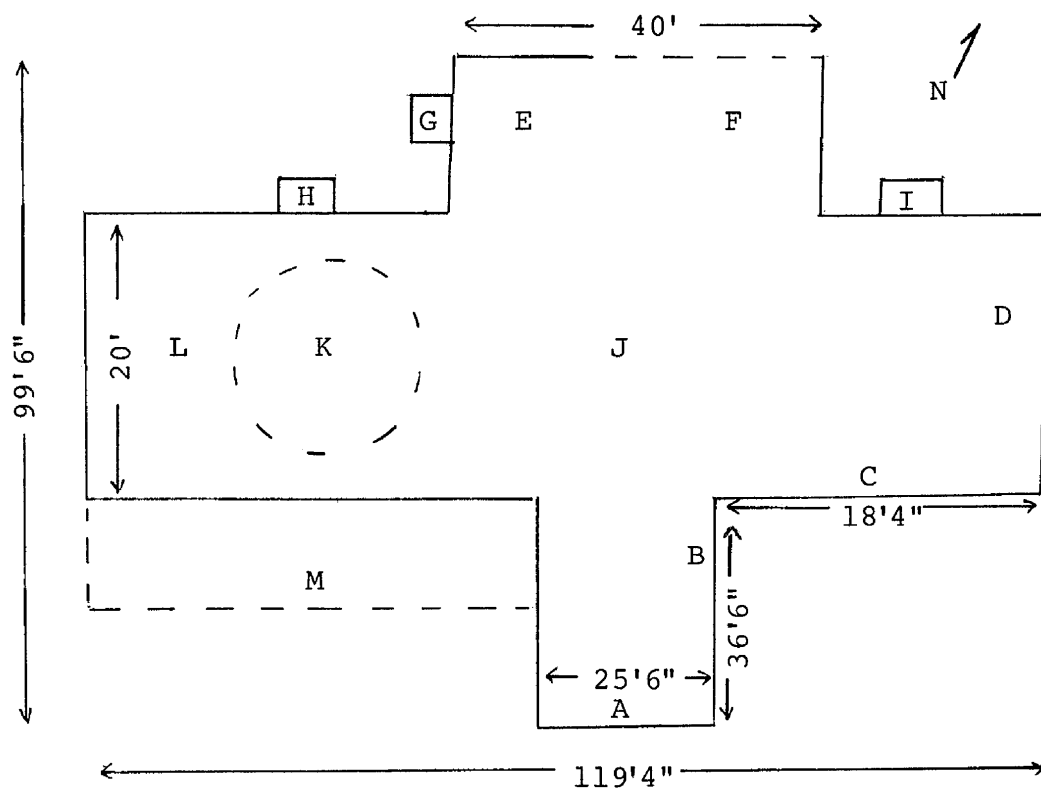
Building No. 34 (New Hospital) (EAG 033)

Location: Fig. 5:34

Description:

Size: The remains of the New Hospital, which include a wide range of structural remains from intact walls still standing to sandy depressions indicating where the structure once stood, measure 119 feet 4-1/2 inches (east/west axis) by 99 feet 6 inches (north/south axis).

Remains:



- A: The southernmost wall of the hospital is still standing and reveals that the hospital was a structure made of squared logs with drop siding on the exterior. The room that this wall was once associated with, however, is indicated only by a sandy area since none of the floor or foundational system remain.
- B,C,D: Similar to the southernmost wall mentioned above, these three walls are also standing. Portions of the hip roof are also visible at certain places on the walls.
- E: This is a deep sandy depression with some remains of a wall dispersed about the depression. A horizontally placed lead pipe extends to the north from this depression.
- F: This area is characterized by a sandy depression. Some structural material is visible but it is difficult to ascertain how it might be associated with a room. In fact, it was difficult to determine in the field whether this area was actually part of the hospital, although blueprints of the hospital later showed that it was.
- G: This area measures 10 feet by 15 feet 6 inches and reveals some floor system remains. A blueprint later revealed that this is where the wood shed was attached to the hospital.
- H: A descending stairwell with walled sides was found at this point.
- I: Another probable entry for a stairwell was observed in this area.
- J: Floor system remains were prominent in this part of the building site.
- K: Portions of a wall in a pit which was about 15 feet deep were evident in this area. The depression extended nearly 40 feet along the east/west axis and measured nearly 20 feet wide.

- L: Some remains of the floor system were evident in this area.
- M: This apparent porch area measured 75 feet 6 inches by 9 feet and is indicated quite clearly by the extensive remains of the porch floor which consisted of floor decking placed on joists.

Additional remains in the vicinity of the site revealed the presence of red painted shingles and yellow painted drop siding, metal stove pipe, flashing, five-gallon cans, pottery fragments, and some baking pans. About 50 feet from the site was found a deposit of melted medicine bottles in a deposit nearly three feet in diameter and a foot in depth. Nearby was also observed a wooden ladder and an oval gray enamelware basin.

Condition: This area has been most disturbed by the removal of the building with the exception of the walls which are still standing. Some of the walls have braces supporting them so that they will not pose a threat to visitors to the site. Most of the building site is characterized by the natural sand which occurs in the area although the outline of the building is still visible.

Current Use: The building site only functions for visitor observation.

Historic Data:

A request for a new hospital was made by Major E. H. Plummer, Commander of Fort Egbert, in December, 1904, however, it was not until over 18 months later that the nearly \$9,000 structure was completed (Plummer 1904a, Anonymous 1907). The 15-room log structure provided 16 beds in the main ward and facilities for health delivery services which included an operating room, squad room, dressing room, surgeon's office, laboratory, sergeant's office, dispensary, noncommissioned officer's room, bathroom, kitchen, pantry, dining room, isolation ward, storeroom, linen closet, and poison closet (Scher n.d.b). Two wood sheds were attached to the building and three stairwells

descended into areas beneath the building. With an 11-foot 7-inch ceiling, the building required 12 wood-burning stoves to heat the facility (Scher 1905b). A request for three furnaces was turned down prior to the completion of the building and no information was found in the quartermaster's records indicating whether they were ever requested again.

After the structure was completed, several requests were made by the surgeons-in-charge for repainting, flooring and siding for cellars, and partitions. The first request was made by First Lieutenant and Assistant Surgeon Ferdinand Schmitter who cited the necessity for a partition across the main ward in order that surgical cases and female patients might be separated from the others since the isolation ward had been reserved for tuberculosis cases which he noted were numerous among the local Indian population (Schmitter 1907). At the same time, he asked that allocations be made for putting flooring and siding on one of the cellars. Neither of these requests were granted although money was made available for partitioning the squad room to serve as a dark room, and for repainting of the hospital (Chief Quartermaster 1907). The following year, Schmitter asked for funding to build a cesspool to the rear of the hospital since the current system involved emptying buckets from beneath sinks and tubs into another container which was removed daily by the "post scavenger" (Schmitter 1908). There is no correspondence in the records which indicate whether or not this was granted, however, there were no archeological features found near the hospital which indicated the presence of a cesspool.

By March, 1909, another request was made, this time by the surgeon, for flooring and siding for the cellars. This was again denied along with a request for building a room to serve as a morgue. The surgeon was granted, however, money for painting the interior, shelving the cellars, and covering the water pipes (Surgeon General 1909). The following year the surgeon again asked for an allocation to put floors and siding on the cellars which were cited as being "too damp and cold to be so used" (Murray 1910). The surgeon also requested that a water drain extension be added so that water could be carried underground about 25 feet from the building to prevent erosion of the

terrace on which the hospital was situated (Murray 1910). It is unclear whether these requests were granted although the following month the Surgeon General addressed a letter to the Adjutant General and requested information on how much longer Fort Egbert would be occupied (Surgeon General 1910). This would suggest that the request was denied.

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert noted that the New Hospital was sold although two years later the Road Commission received permission to salvage the building (Record Group 49).

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 14 (10-13)

Building No. 35 (Sergeant First Class Hospital Corps' Quarters)

Location: Fig. 5:35

Description:

Size: The feature remains of this building site measure 30 feet (east/west axis) by 40 feet (north/south axis) with a 9 by 10-foot addition at the rear of the site.

Remains: This building site contains some structural debris within the building site proper which indicates the nature of the floor system. A depression about 10 to 12 feet deep and nearly 21 feet in diameter is located within the site. A rectangular pit is located to the northeast of the site. Some of the cultural debris in the vicinity of this location includes a galvanized iron sink, a five-gallon can, stove pipe and flashing, cans, pottery fragments, and a door jamb.

Condition: The building site has been disturbed somewhat by the removal of the building. A sandy feature dominates the site which is surrounded by the aspen and birch forest.

Current Use: This area is not currently used except occasionally for visitor observation.

Historic Data:

In 1904, a request was made by Captain Perkins, Commanding Officer, for the construction of a Hospital Steward's Quarters since the first class sergeant of the Hospital Corps was currently occupying one of the noncommissioned officer's quarters (Perkins 1904). It was over three years, however, before the building was completed at a cost of about \$3,000 (Anonymous 1908b). The building was a one-story frame building with "double lumber" walls and measured 29 feet 6 inches by 37 feet with a wing 10 feet 6 inches by 9 feet. The quarters included a large room, a bathroom, four closets and a wood shed (Anonymous 1908b).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that this building was sold, however, the Road Commission was granted permission to salvage the building two years later (Record Group 49).

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 14 (14, 15)

Building No. 36 (Gymnasium) (EAG 035)

Location: Fig. 5:36

Description:

Size: The feature which indicates the approximate location of the gymnasium measures 71 feet (east/west axis) by 144 feet (north/south axis).

Remains: The remains of this building site consist primarily of a large sandy feature where the building was once located. Some wood floor remains are present on the west of the feature where the bowling alley was located. Other remains within the building site include galvanized lead pipes 3-3/4 inches in diameter placed vertically in the ground, a three-sided sheet metal lined box 18-1/2 inches by 15-1/2 inches in the ground, a wood-lined pit, galvanized stove pipe, cans, and some bottles were located in the southern area of the site.

Approximately 18 feet to the east of the gymnasium site was a large pit--18 feet by 7 feet--with some horizontally laid lead pipe in the eastern side. The east wall was lined with wood which consisted of 2 by 6-inch rough cut studs with 2 by 6-inch rough cut boards nailed to them. This pit was only 5 feet from the road on the east and on the other side of the road a ditch with lush grass vegetation grown over it was observed.

Condition: The building site was primarily a sandy depression which resulted from the removal of the building. Within this area have grown birch, spruce, aspen, and diamond willow.

Current Use: This area is not currently used.

Historic Data:

The Gymnasium was one of the last major structures built at Fort Egbert and was completed in August, 1909 (Quartermaster General 1909). Two years earlier, the quartermaster general recommended the construction of this building which included a bowling alley and by January 7, 1908, Quartermaster Catts drew up the specifications and estimates for its construction. The 69 by 96-foot structure was designed to house a 12 by 96-foot two-lane bowling alley previously housed in Building 17 (Granary), a 12 by 96-foot shooting gallery, and a 45 by 96-foot main gymnasium room which also functioned as a drill hall (Catts 1908). The lavatory included facilities for eight including wash basins, bathtubs, toilets, and a cedar tank. A water line ran directly to the building and conveniently provided water in the summer. One correspondence noted that in the winter a tank could be filled by the water wagon from a rise behind the building (Catts 1908). The galvanized iron boxes for toilets were emptied from the rear while drain pipes from the tubs and basins led into an 8 by 8 by 10-foot cesspool about 20 feet from the building (Catts 1908). Heat for the building was provided by two 4-foot hot air wood furnaces.

A 1909 report on the completed structure, however, noted that the building measured 70 feet by 126 feet with three rooms the size noted in the specifications

with five other rooms of various sizes (Anonymous 1909c). Although the Gymnasium did not provide "water closets," it did have a shower, seven tubs, ten wash basins, and was heated by hot air heat from a 12 by 14-foot heater room in the basement. The gym was well equipped with exercise materials which included basketballs, boxing gloves, striking bags, parallel bars, vaulting bars, dumbbells, fencing equipment, medicine balls, mats and climbing poles (Robinson and Willig 1908). The shooting gallery was supplied with three targets and .22 caliber Savage 1905 rifles (Catts 1908). This building was constructed at a cost of about \$11,300 (Anonymous 1909c).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that the Gymnasium was empty at the time. In 1929, the Road Commission received permission to dismantle it but it was apparently still standing in 1932 when it was put up to bid but received none (Record Group 49).

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 10 (12-21)

Building No. 37 (Straw Shed)

Location: Fig. 5:37

Description:

Size: It is difficult to determine the limits of this feature on the south, east, and north margins. The west limit extended north/south for a distance of about 47 feet.

Remains: No structural remains were visible in the area of this building site. As noted above, only the west margin of the feature was evident. To the north of the building site were found an 8-inch diameter iron sheeting pipe embedded horizontally in the ground at the lower end of a bank and a lead galvanized pipe extending from a mound of dirt. There were no indications of the location of the corral fence which apparently ran to the north of the site.

Condition: The entire building site has been disturbed by some unknown activity in the main part of the building site. On the south, the site has been obliterated by the presence of a road which extends from the airfield to the Taylor Highway.

Current Use: The south portion of the remaining feature functions as a storage area for lumber used by the Bureau of Land Management in stabilization and restoration work. Further south, the area serves a part of a road.

Historic Data:

This storage facility, completed in September, 1908, was one of the last structures built at the fort at a relatively modest cost of \$174 (Anonymous 1908a). The 20 by 40-foot frame building with corrugated iron siding and roofing and wood plank floor had a capacity of 100 tons (Anonymous 1908a, Bellamy 1909).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that the disposition of this building was questionable.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 6 (9-16)

Building No. 38 (New Pumphouse)

Location: Fig. 5:38

Description:

Size: The feature which outlines the approximate area of the building site measures 12 feet (north/south axis) by 27 feet (east/west axis) with a wing at the south which measures 11 feet 3 inches (north/south axis) by 15 feet (east/west axis).

Remains: This building site is characterized by a large boiler which was used to heat the water although feature outlines are visible on the north, east, and south margins. Floor planking is visible in the ground surface on the north limit in the area of the boiler, although the wood

is much decayed. A shallow ditch is evident and extends to the west in the direction of the redwood tank remains. Another depression was observed to the south of the feature in the bank of the hill and revealed a wooden box placed in the ground. Some metal fragments and a five-gallon can were found in the area of the building site.

The remains of a redwood tank which was used to store water which was pumped to the waterline are visible to the west of this building site. The tank is presently filled with standing water and the vertical planking of the sides of the tank extend to 1 foot above the ground surface. A 6-foot high fence has been placed around the tank to keep persons from falling into the water. The tank measures approximately 13 feet in diameter.

Condition: The building site has been disturbed by some unknown activity although the boiler still remains and some outlines are still visible. It is difficult to determine what the redwood tank originally looked like and whether the remains present today adequately resemble the original tank.

Current Use: The area is used primarily for visitor observation but probably receives more intensive use than other areas on the fort grounds because of its proximity to the campground and the spring.

Historic Data:

The New Pumphouse was completed in September, 1908, at a cost of \$750 (Anonymous n.d.1). The main room measured 24 feet 6 inches by 40 feet 6 inches while the wing for the "springhouse" measured 12 feet by 22 feet. This was a frame structure with a corrugated iron roof.

The building was transferred to the Alaska Road Commission in 1929, but was later sold for \$5 (Record Group 49).

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 15 (2-4)

Building No. 39 (Oil House)

Location: Fig. 5:39

Description:

Size: Two depressions appear to define the approximate location of this building. The combined size of these depressions measures 58 feet (north/south axis) by 21 feet (east/west axis).

Remains: This building site is composed of two depressions, the southern one deeper than the northern one. No structural debris was visible although some metal remains were observed in the southern depression. The eastern margin is not well-defined.

Condition: The building site has apparently been disturbed by the removal of the building and it is likely that the current vegetation of aspen and rose bushes has contributed to obscuring some of the feature remains.

Current Use: There is no current use of this area.

Historic Data:

This one-room structure with a 16,000 gallon capacity was completed in September, 1908, and measured 20 feet by 42 feet. The frame structure with corrugated iron siding and roofing cost nearly \$500 to build and functioned as a storage building (Anonymous n.d.m).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that the building was salvaged.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 7 (12, 13)

Building No. 40 (Tankhouse)

Location: Fig. 5:40

Description:

Size: Several features were observed at the site of the tankhouse and it is uncertain which may represent the actual building site. One feature measured 21 feet (east/west axis) by 38 feet 6 inches (north/south axis) while the other measured 16 feet (east/west axis) by 17 feet 6 inches (north/south axis) and was located about 10 feet west of the other feature.

Remains: The two features are characterized by shallow depressions in the ground surface. Structural debris covering an area about 10 feet square were found to the immediate southeast of the larger feature. A similar deposit of structural debris of the same size was found about 28 feet north of the northwest corner of this larger feature. In addition were found some lead pipe and sheet metal fragments.

The area of the smaller feature contained what appeared to be the remains of a water tank.

Another water tank was found about 500 feet from the eastern terminus of the waterline but this is presented on the data sheets for the warming houses.

Condition: This site has been disturbed by the apparent removal of the buildings and natural decaying processes. The building site is located in an aspen and spruce forest.

Current Use: The building site is probably visited by campers from the campground which is located adjacent to the area.

Historic Data:

The Tankhouse was a frame building which measured about 28 feet square and functioned to house a 20,000-gallon wooden tank. The building was completed in October, 1905, at a cost of \$2,000 (Anonymous n.d.n).

Although the obvious water tank is located further north near the site of the New Pumphouse, it may be that this later tank was installed at the same time. Further research could probably clarify this.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 15 (7)

Building No. 41 (Lumber and Blacksmith's Coal Shed)

Location: Fig. 5:41

Description:

Size: The feature remains at this locality are combined with those of the site of Building 13 since it is difficult to determine the limits of each. This feature measures approximately 45 feet (north/south axis) by 150 feet (east/west axis).

Remains: No structural remains are present at this site, although a possible bannister segment was found in the area. The feature consists of a large sandy area which possibly indicates where the building was once located. Material debris in the area includes a sawblade, metal stove pipe fragments, galvanized iron sheet fragments, a very large pipe fitting, concrete fragments, and two bricks each with "SNOWBALL" imprinted in them.

Condition: The area has been disturbed by the removal of the building. Although a sandy area generally characterizes the site, there is also spruce and aspen growing.

Current Use: There is no current use of this area.

Historic Data:

This building was constructed at no cost to the government. The structure was built in September, 1907, from material saved from the construction of other buildings and was built with post labor (Anonymous n.d.o). The frame building had corrugated iron siding and roofing and a dirt floor which

measured 20 feet by 24 feet (Anonymous n.d.o, Bellamy 1909).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that this building was sold, however, other documents state that the Road Commission only received permission to salvage it in 1927 (Record Group 49).

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 2 (2-5)

Building No. 42 (Possible Powder Magazine)

Location: Fig. 5:42

Description:

Size: No size of an archeological feature could be determined since there were no surface indications of the building site.

Remains: No cultural, structural, or feature remains were visible on the ground surface. No evidence of a fence which once passed behind this structure was observed.

Condition: This is a forested area with large aspen trees growing on the probable building site.

Current Use: There is no use of this area at present.

Historic Data:

There is some confusion in the historic record as to the function of this building. It is only on a 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission that the building is cited as the "Powder Magazine" which had burned by that time. It does not appear on the earlier maps of the fort and the later maps indicate it as a frame building and only note it as Building 42. A 1906 map of the entire military reservation marks this area as the site of an observatory of the "U.S.C.&G.S." (presumably the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey).

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 3 (15, 16)

Building No. 43/0 (Workshop)

Location: Fig. 5:43/0

Description:

Size: No size of an archeological feature could be determined since there were no surface indications of the building site.

Remains: No cultural or structural remains were visible on the ground surface. A shallow depression with standing water was observed but it is difficult to determine whether this is a cultural feature or the result of natural processes.

Condition: The area is covered with dense vegetation including predominantly alder and rose bushes.

Current Use: There is no use of this area at present.

Historic Data:

Early maps of the fort show that a small building was constructed by 1901 behind the Sawmill (Building 23) although no number was assigned to the structure. Later, however, one map labelled the corrugated iron frame building "43" and "Workshop" (Peek n.d.). This created a certain amount of confusion since the historic record cards indicate that the number 43 was assigned to the "Heater House" otherwise known as the Water Wagon Shed or Firehouse (Anonymous 1909a). The Heater House, however, will be presented on the data sheet for Building 43/44 in this appendix.

Building No. 43/44 (Heater House, Water Wagon Shed,
Firehouse) (EAG 023)

Location: Fig. 5:43/44

Description:

Size: This building measures 40 feet 2-1/2 inches (east/west axis) by 44 feet 4 inches (north/south axis).

Remains: Building 43/44 is a frame structure which is still standing on the fort grounds although it has been moved from its original building site. The structure has been stabilized by BLM in recent years.

Condition: Stabilization activities have contributed to making this building better preserved for the future.

Current Use: This building is presently used to store historic "antiques" which were donated by the local townspeople and were previously stored in Building 14. The local historical society takes visitors on tour through this building as part of the tour of the city of Eagle.

Historic Data:

In August, 1909, the Quartermaster General authorized nearly \$2,500 for the construction of a "Heater House for water wagon and chemical engine with shed addition for Hook and Ladder Truck" at Fort Egbert (Quartermaster General 1909). Justification for the construction of such a facility at the fort was submitted nearly three months earlier by Quartermaster C. B. Moon who indicated that a structure was needed to keep the water wagon and chemical engine from freezing since no building served that purpose and the previously used storage building had been condemned (Moon 1909). He also noted that the hook and ladder truck was stored "under the porch of the old Guard House now used as an ice house" (Moon 1909). A blueprint for the construction of the Heater House accurately depicts the structure which is still standing today and measures 40 feet by 30 feet in the main room with 12 by 14-foot double sliding doors and an attached wing 14 feet by 36 feet with a 10-foot opening (Anonymous n.d.d). The frame building was covered with "asbestocide" with asbestos on the roof and a plank floor (Anonymous 1909a) and was completed in October, 1909, at a little more than \$2,200.

It should be pointed out that the historic record cards in the quartermaster's records note that this building was assigned number 43 and that Building 44 was in fact the "Target House" although two of the later maps of the fort cite Building 44 as the Fire

House and no Target House is shown (Peek n.d., Stone 1912). The historic record cards do show that the Target House was completed only ten days before the completion of the Heater House but the location of the Target House remains unknown (Anonymous 1909b). The one-story building with corrugated iron walls and roof and called the Target House measured only 15 feet by 24 feet and cost nearly \$305 to construct (Anonymous 1909b).

A 1925 map of Fort Egbert drafted by the Alaska Road Commission noted that the Heater House was sold at that time. Additionally, in 1927 the Road Commission received permission to salvage the building which is still standing on the fort grounds (Record Group 49).

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 6 (19, 20), Roll 9 (17, 18)

Building No. 45 (Old Pumphouse)

Location: Fig. 5:45

Description:

Size: A faintly outlined depression which measured approximately 27 feet (east/west axis) by 12 feet (north/south axis) was located in the approximate location of this building site.

Remains: No structural or material remains were found in the vicinity of the feature.

Condition: It is difficult to determine whether this building site has been disturbed by the removal of the building or the natural growth processes of the spruce forest or both.

Current Use: The building site is not used for any purpose although it is adjacent to a picnic area on the right bank of American Creek.

Historic Data:

The Old Pumphouse served to pump water from the spring into a tank on a nearby hill and was then transported

through a water pipeline to the main area of the fort (Scher 1905a). There is no information on the size of this building in the quartermaster's records although the records do note that an old boiler which was once used at the Sawmill (Building 23) and a pump were part of the system. This building was probably abandoned when the New Pumphouse (Building 38) was built in 1908 and began its operation. In 1929, the Alaska Road Commission received permission to dismantle the building although it was still standing in 1932 when it was sold for \$5 (Record Group 49).

APPENDIX III
OTHER FEATURES IN THE CORE AREA

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

☒ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☐ Historical

1. Site number

2. Type of site

Prehistoric campsite

3. State
Alaska

County

District Fortymile
Resource Area4. Map reference
Eagle Quad.

5. Location

This prehistoric locality was observed in a cut bank of the Yukon River at the eastern limit of Fort Egbert located east of the site of the sawmill which once operated at Fort Egbert.

Section	Township	Range	Meridian
31	T 1 South	R 33 East	Fairbanks

6. Land ownership status

Bureau of Land Management

7. Other site designations

AHRS 49-EAG-72

8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use

Possibly associated with ancestors of Athapaskan Indians during the last few centuries.

9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance This site consists of at least seven and possibly eight prehistoric hearths which were observed in the cut bank of the Yukon River about 1/4 mile above the mouth of Mission Creek. They are located on a low bank between a high bank immediately upriver and a slough immediately downriver. At two points were found two hearths, one superimposed on the other separated by a thin layer of silt. Each hearth measured between 3 and 4 feet across and about 9 inches in thickness. The upper level hearths (six in number) were all about 16 inches below the ground surface. Seven of the hearths were located within a 100-foot linear expanse along the bank separated from each other by anywhere from 15 to 35 linear feet although this was not mapped exactly. These hearths consisted of ash, calcined bone, and fire-cracked rock. No material items were observed in the exposed areas and the hearths were not disturbed to determine if such remains were also in the hearths. A small test pit was placed in the ground behind the site of one area of the superimposed hearths in 1976 by a WICHE intern for the BLM. Historic material was found in a layer above the hearth while the hearth level contained flakes, charcoal, and a ceramic

10. Area of occupation fragment.

This remains to be determined through more extensive test excavations.

12. Photo numbers

11. Present condition

The site is presently being eroded by natural processes and river action and was previously disturbed by the Fort Egbert sawmill which was located on the site.

13. Informants and references Waldman, R. 1976. Cultural Inventory of the Forty Mile Resource Area. Report to BLM.

Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978. Fort Egbert and the Eagle Historic District: Results of Archeological and Historic Research, Summer 1977. Report to BLM.

4. Recorded by

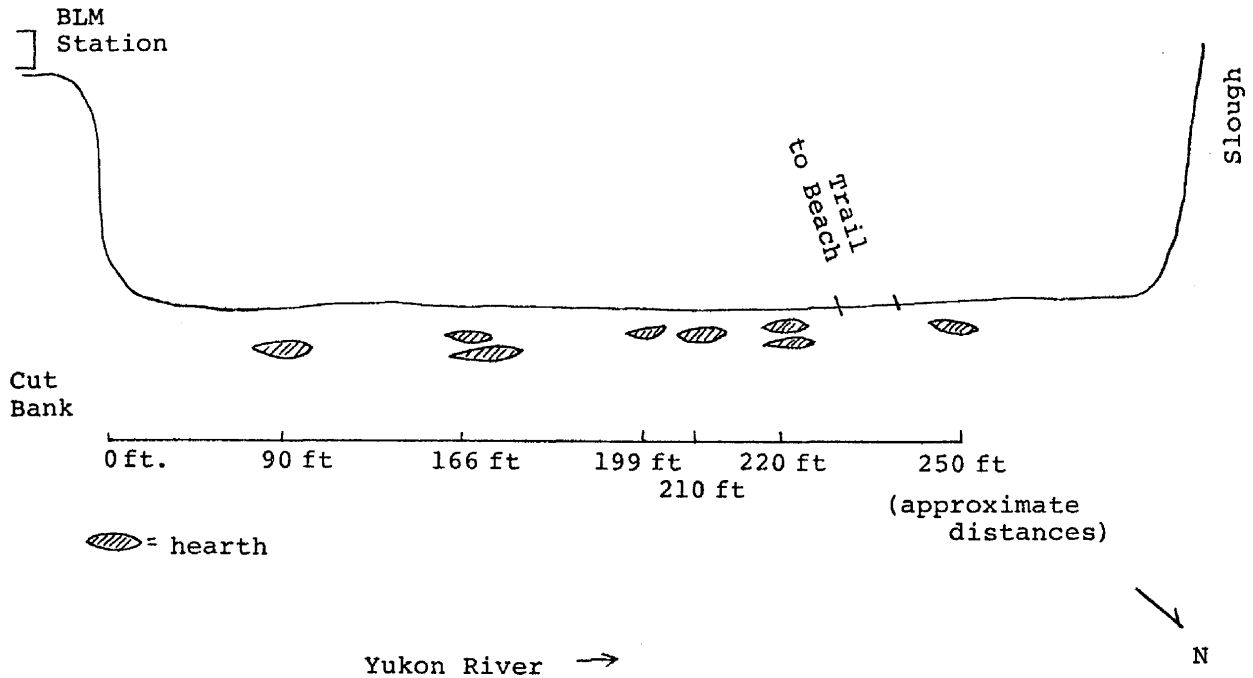
Elizabeth Andrews

Date

May 1977

(continued on reverse)

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No This should be determined by a recreation technician.

17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

Further test excavations should be conducted to determine the extent of prehistoric remains, their nature, and their significance before preservation and/or development could be justified.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

☒ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☐ Historical

1. Site number

2. Type of site
Prehistoric activity
area.

3. State

Alaska

County

District Fortymile
Resource Area

4. Map reference

Eagle Quad.

5. Location

This locality was found in the road which parallels the northern limit of the airfield at the City of Eagle and was located about 300 feet west of the western limit of the currently used dump. This also corresponds to a point in the road southeast of the remains of Building 3 of Fort Egbert.

Section

31

Township

T 1 South

Range

R 33 East

Meridian

Fairbanks

6. Land ownership status

Bureau of Land Management

7. Other site designations

8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use

Possibly associated with ancestors of Athapaskan Indians and
post-A.D. 400

9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance

This surface scatter is located in a currently used road about 900 feet west of the Yukon River bank. Materials observed in a 10-foot square area included five small flakes, a retouched flake, a probable core tablet, a unifacially flaked end and side "thumbnail" scraper, and fire-cracked rock pieces. It should be noted that although the materials were found on the surface they were probably once embedded in a level above the volcanic ash horizon of this area, but were exposed when the present airfield and road were graded and constructed earlier in the century. None of the pieces are particularly diagnostic and were found in a disturbed context. No test excavations were undertaken to determine if the locality is more extensive and less disturbed in adjacent areas. This locality may be associated with a site at the edge of the bank and reported on another BLM Antiquities Site Inventory form and also designated as 49-EAG-70 in the AHRS system.

10. Area of occupation

This remains to be determined
through test excavations.

12. Photo numbers

11. Present condition

The site has been disturbed by the construction of the airfield and adjacent road. The road is presently used by motor vehicles.

13. Informants and references

Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978. Fort Egbert and the Eagle Historic District: Results of Archeological and Historic Research, Summer 1977. Report to BLM.

4. Recorded by

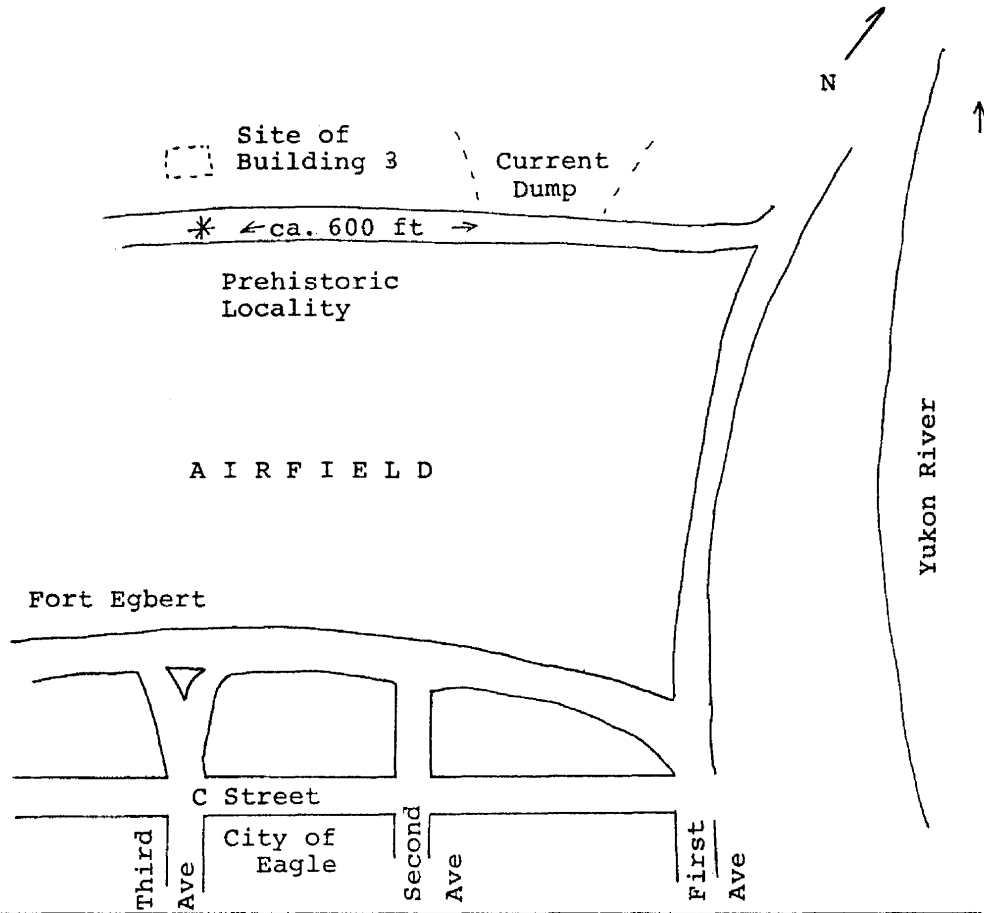
Elizabeth Andrews

Date

May 1977

(continued on reverse)

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No Presently used as a road.

17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

Test excavations should be conducted to determine the extent of the prehistoric remains, their nature, and their significance before preservation and/or further development could be justified.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

Form 6230-2
(June 1968)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

☒ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☐ Historical

1. Site number

2. Type of site
Prehistoric activity
area.

3. State Alaska	County	District Fortymile Resource Area	4. Map reference Eagle Quad.
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5. Location

This locality was found in the road which parallels the northern limit of the airfield at the City of Eagle and was located about 75 feet west of the western limit of the currently used dump.

Section 31	Township T 1 South	Range R 33 East	Meridian Fairbanks
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6. Land ownership status
Bureau of Land Management

7. Other site designations

8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use

Possibly ancestors of Athapaskan Indians post-A.D. 400

9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance This surface scatter is located in a currently used road about 600 feet west of the Yukon River bank. Materials observed in a 6 foot square area included two flakes which were once one piece, a retouched flake, and two other flakes. About 20 feet further west, also in the road, was a piece of purple tinted glass which had been retouched. It should be noted that although the items were found on the surface, they were probably once embedded in a level above the volcanic ash horizon of this area, but were exposed when the present airfield was graded and constructed earlier in the century. The flakes which appeared on the surface are not diagnostic and were found in a disturbed context. No test excavations were undertaken to determine if the locality is more extensive and less disturbed in adjacent areas. This locality may be associated with a site at the edge of the bank and reported on another BLM Antiquities Site Inventory sheet also designated as 49-EAG-70 in the AHRS system.

10. Area of occupation
This remains to be determined
through test excavations.

12. Photo numbers

11. Present condition
This site has been disturbed by the construction of the airfield and adjacent road. The road is presently used by motor vehicles.

13. Informants and references

Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978. Fort Egbert and the Eagle Historic District: Results of Archeological and Historic Research, Summer 1977. Report to BLM.

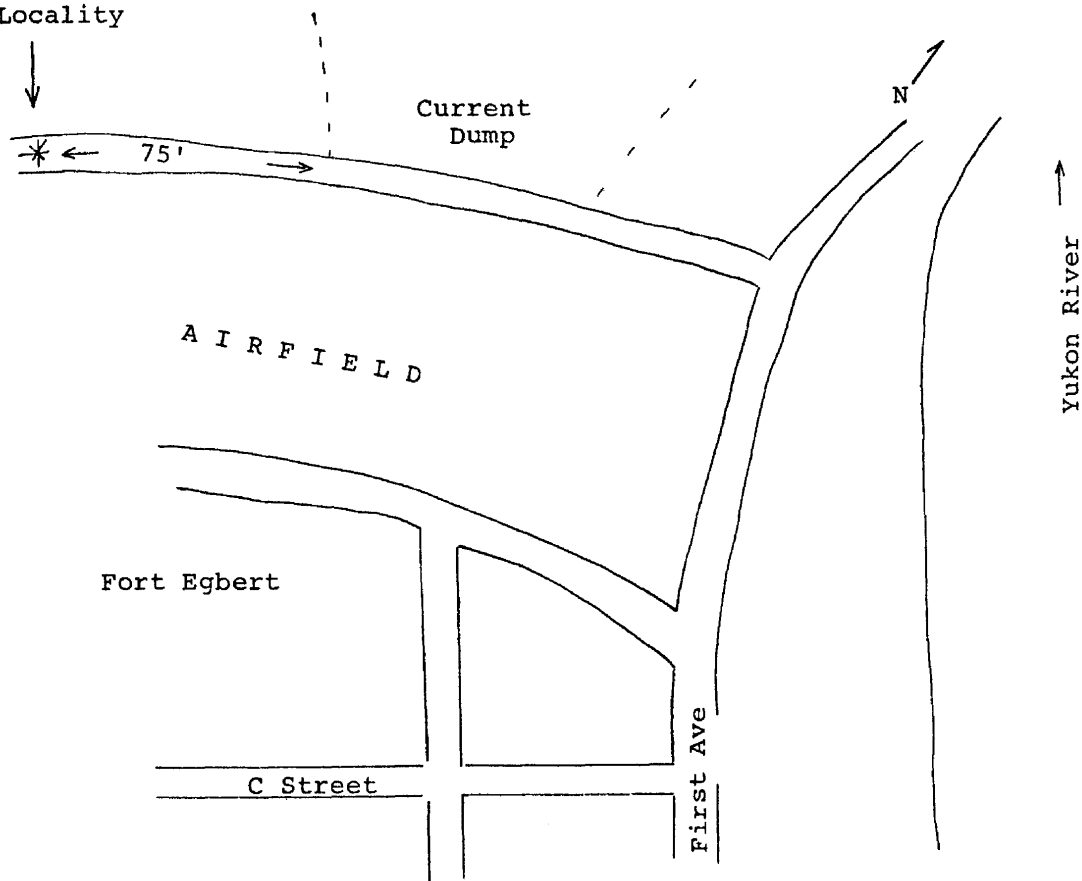
4. Recorded by
Elizabeth Andrews

Date
May 1977

(continued on reverse)

15. Sketch and/or remarks

Prehistoric
Locality



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No Presently used as a road.

17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

Test excavations should be conducted to determine the extent of the prehistoric remains, their nature, and their significance before preservation and/or further development could be justified.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

☒ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☒ Historical

1. Site number

2. Type of site Prehistoric
campsite; Fort Egbert
Military Reservation

3. State
Alaska

County

District Fortymile
Resource Area

4. Map reference
Eagle Quad

5. Location

This prehistoric locality was observed in a cut bank of the Yukon River at the eastern limit of Fort Egbert between the north limit of the City of Eagle and the edge of a high bank above the site of Building 23 (Sawmill).

Section	Township	Range	Meridian
31	T 1 South	R 33 East	Fairbanks

6. Land ownership status

Bureau of Land Management

7. Other site designations

AHRS 49-EAG-70

8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use

Possibly ancestors of Athapaskan Indians post-A.D. 400 and also
Euro-Americans 1899+

9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance

This site is located atop an approximately 75-foot high bank of the Yukon River. This bank has been subject to erosion known during the past century and continues to erode annually. During an informal inspection of the cut bank in 1976, cultural materials associated with both a prehistoric and historic occupation were observed by myself and occurred above a volcanic ash horizon. During our 1977 field survey, however, no cultural materials were observed. The site has been test excavated by WICHE interns for the BLM. In August, 1976, two areas near the edge of the bank were tested. These limited excavations revealed a disturbed level between the ash horizon and the sod level and contained glass fragments, wire, nails, a biface, and flakes (see Waldman 1976:25).

10. Area of occupation This remains to be determined through more extensive test excavations.

12. Photo numbers 1977 Field Survey:
Roll 1 (2-7)

11. Present condition

The site is presently eroded by natural processes, serves as nesting areas for swallows who further cut into the bank, and is disturbed by use of the airfield which is located on the site.

13. Informants and references

Waldman, R. 1976. Cultural Inventory of the Forty Mile Resource Area. Report to BLM.

Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978. Fort Egbert and the Eagle Historic District: Results of Archeological and Historic Research, Summer 1977. Report to

4. Recorded by BLM.

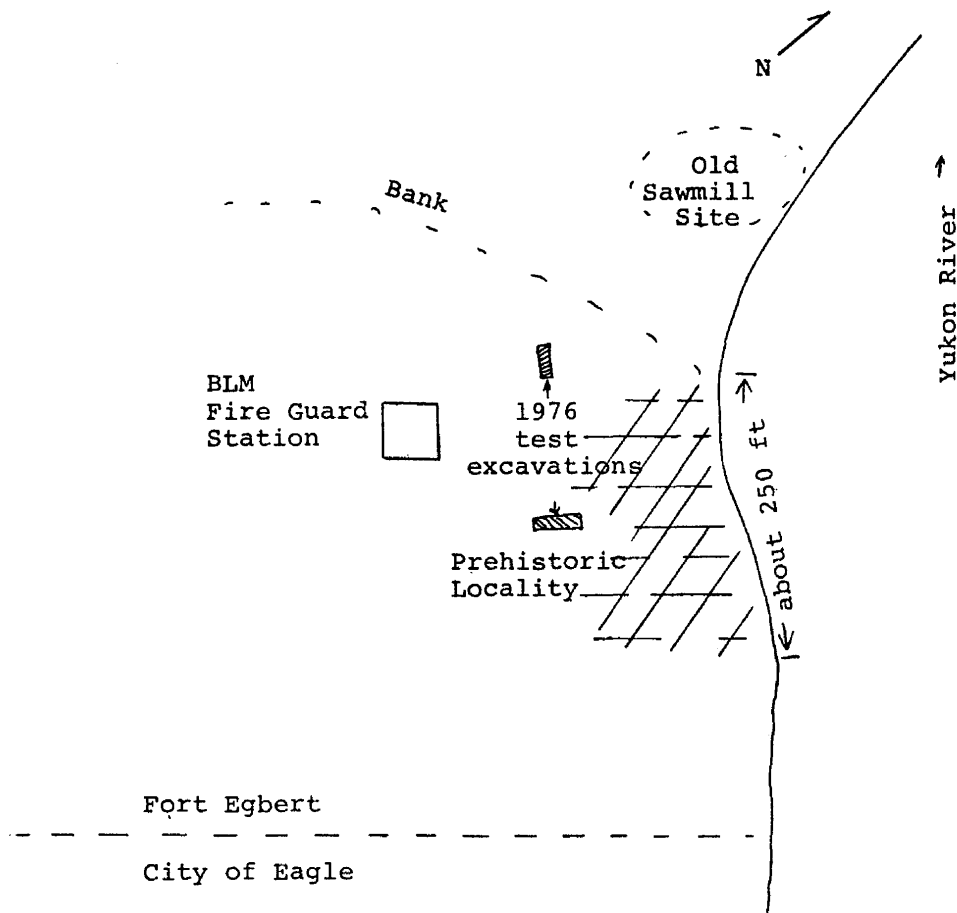
Elizabeth Andrews

Date

May 1977

(continued on reverse)

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No This should be determined by a recreation technician.

17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

Further test excavations could be conducted to determine the extent of prehistoric remains, their nature, and their significance before preservation and/or development could be justified.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

☒ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☒ Historical

1. Site number

2. Type of site Prehistoric
activity area; Historic
deposit

3. State Alaska	County	District Fortymile Resource Area	4. Map reference Eagle Quad
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5. Location

This prehistoric locality was found north of C Street in Eagle and west of the northern extension of First Avenue which extends onto and across the airfield. Additionally, it is located just south of the road which parallels the southern limit of the airfield and is only about 70 feet from each of the above roads mentioned.

Section 31	Township T 1 South	Range R 33 East	Meridian Fairbanks
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6. Land ownership status

Bureau of Land Management

7. Other site designations

8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use

Possibly ancestors of Athapaskan Indians post-A.D. 400 and also
Euro-Americans 1899+

9. Site description; position, surrounding terrain, and importance This site is located on the airfield parking area about 400 feet west of the Yukon River bank. Materials were observed on the ground surface which appear to be associated with both prehistoric and historic activities in the area. Prehistoric materials included a retouched boulder spall, 5 flakes, 1 blade-like flake, and a possible core fragment in two pieces. Historic items found were white pottery fragments, dark amber glass fragments and clear pane window fragments. It should be noted that although the prehistoric items were found on the surface, they were probably once deposited by their makers in the level above the volcanic ash horizon of this area, but because of grading of the airfield they have been exposed during the last 50 years. It is difficult to determine their importance because the items found are not particularly diagnostic, they were not found in a certainly undisturbed context, and no test excavations were undertaken to determine if a subsurface site exists. This locality may be associated with a site at the edge of the bank and reported on another BLM Antiquities Site Inventory Sheet also designated as 49-EAG-70 in the AHRS system.

10. Area of occupation

This remains to be determined
through test excavations.

11. Present condition

This site has been disturbed in the past by the construction and grading of the airfield. Present use includes use of the area for airplane parking.

12. Photo numbers 1977 Field Survey:
Roll 1 (12, 13)

13. Informants and references

Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978. Fort Egbert and the Eagle Historic District: Results of Archeological and Historic Research, Summer 1977. Report to BLM.

4. Recorded by

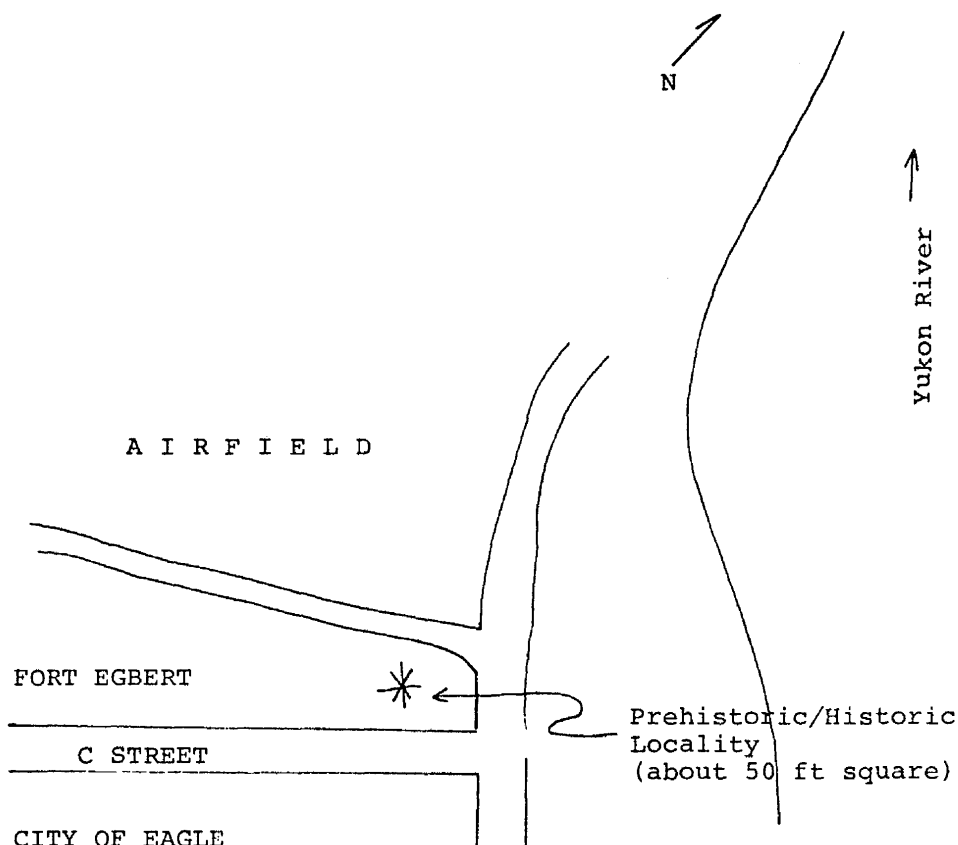
Elizabeth Andrews

Date

May 1977

(continued on reverse)

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No This should be determined by a recreation technician.

17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

Test excavations should be conducted to determine the extent of the prehistoric remains, their nature and their significance before preservation and/or development could be justified.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ANTIQUEITIES SITE INVENTORY

☒ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☒ Historical

1. Site number
2. Type of site Prehistoric activity area; Historic deposit.

3. State Alaska	County	District Fortymile Resource Area	4. Map reference Eagle Quad.
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5. Location
This prehistoric locality was found north of C Street on the abandoned military reservation of Fort Egbert and 20 feet east of the extension of Second Avenue which extends to a road which parallels the southern limit of the airfield. The historic locality coincided with the prehistoric one. The site is located adjacent to the southern road paralleling the airfield.

Section 31	Township T 1 South	Range R 33 East	Meridian Fairbanks
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6. Land ownership status Bureau of Land Management	7. Other site designations
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8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use
Possibly ancestors of Athapaskan Indians post-A.D. 400 and also Euro-Americans 1899+

9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance
This site is located on the airfield parking area about 550 feet west of the Yukon River bank. Materials were observed scattered on the ground surface and appear to be associated with both prehistoric and historic activities in the area. Prehistoric materials included two flakes and a possible core fragment. Historic items found were three white pottery fragments, one 12-gauge Winchester shotgun shell fragment, one .44 WCF cartridge case, and a blue-on-white pottery fragment. It should be noted that although the prehistoric items were found on the surface, they were probably once deposited in the level above the volcanic ash horizon of this area, but because of grading of the airfield and/or construction of a nearby building on Fort Egbert earlier in this century, the once subsurface site has been exposed. It is difficult to determine

(continued on attached sheet)

10. Area of occupation This remains to be determined through test excavations.	11. Present condition This site has been disturbed in the past by the grading and construction of the airfield and possibly one building at Fort Egbert. It is currently used for airplane parking.
12. Photo numbers 1977 Field Survey: Roll 1 (12-15)	

13. Informants and references
Shinkwin, A.D. et al. 1978. Fort Egbert and the Eagle Historic District: Results of Archeological and Historic Research, Summer 1977. Report to BLM.

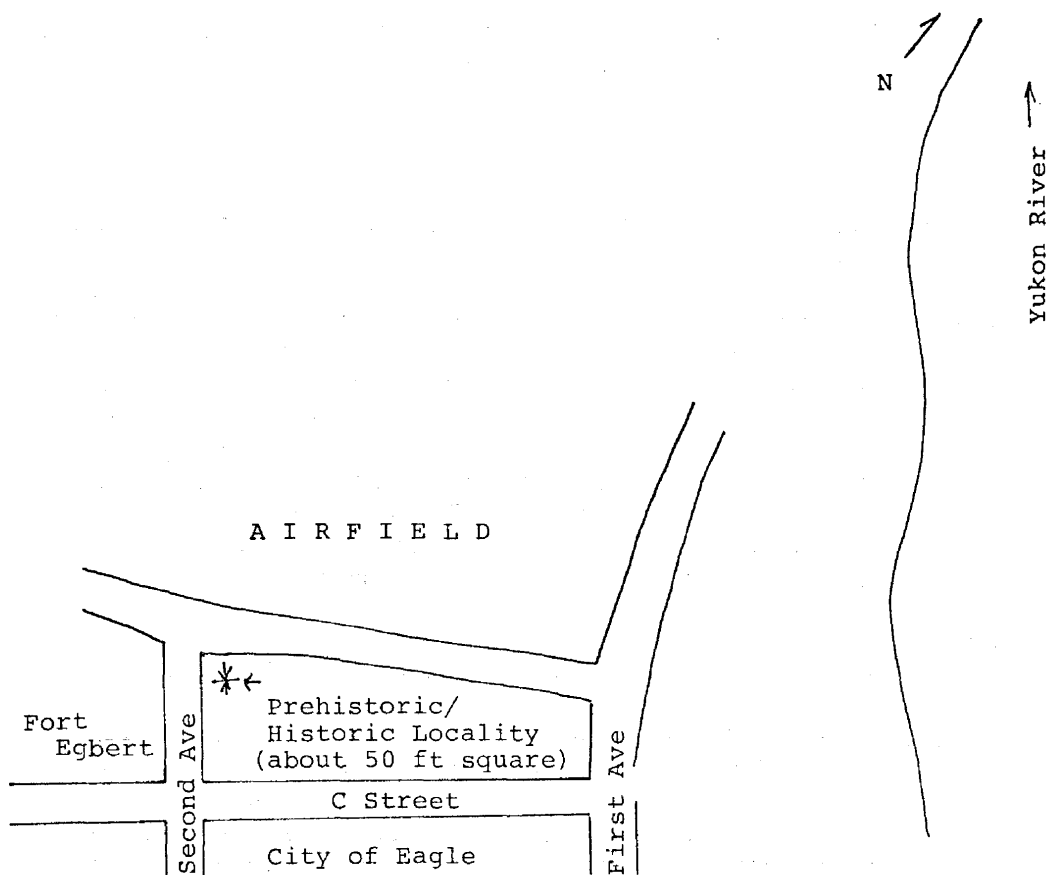
4. Recorded by Elizabeth Andrews	Date May 1977
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(continued on reverse)

Continuation sheet for prehistoric site near Second Avenue and Airfield.

their importance because the prehistoric items found are not diagnostic, were not found in an undisturbed context, and no test excavations were undertaken to determine if additional materials exist. Similarly, the historic items were found in a disturbed context. The prehistoric site may be associated with another site found at the edge of the bank and designated as 49-EAG-70 in the AHRs system.

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No This should be determined by a recreation technician.

17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

Test excavations should be conducted to determine the extent of the prehistoric and historic remains, their nature and their significance before preservation and/or development could be justified.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

ROAD BETWEEN BUILDING 21 AND MISSION CREEK

Location: This road extends nearly 300 yards between the site of Building 21 and Mission Creek to the north.

Description:

Size: This is a one lane dirt road which extends about 300 yards.

Remains: The road is a dirt thoroughfare wide enough for one motor vehicle. Along the road off to each side are visible small piles of metal, glass, and wooden debris. Some of the items observed included ham cans, hole-in-top cans, pipe tobacco cans, stove pipe fragments, a J. C. Dill's Best Sliced Cut Plug Tobacco can, window glass, screen, a galvanized bucket, a five-gallon can, and wooden crates with metal stays.

Condition: The road is functional and appears like many of the other dirt roads in the city.

Current Use: This road was observed to be used primarily as a thoroughfare for persons on foot in the summer although an occasional motor vehicle passed along it. It probably functions in the winter as a route used by snowmachine travelers.

Historic Data:

On one of the earliest maps of the Fort, this road is labelled as a wood road (Fitzpatrick 1901) and the terminus near the barracks was originally the wood-yard. A later map, however, shows that the road terminated behind Building 21 (Barracks) and passed in front of Building 36 (Gymnasium) connecting with the road to the hospital (Hill 1908).

ROAD BETWEEN BUILDING 21 AND BUILDING 1

A clearly defined road cut between the sites of these two buildings is visible and follows the route indicated on original maps of the fort. Today the site of the road is

passable on foot, snow machine, or trailbike.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 12 (15, 16)

ROAD BETWEEN BUILDING 1 AND BUILDING 2

A clearly defined road cut between the sites of Building 1 and Building 3 is visible and follows the route indicated on original maps of the fort. The remainder of the road between Building 3, past the site of Building 5 and to Building 2 has been obscured by forest growth and the presence of the airfield.

FORT EGBERT TERMINUS OF THE TRANS-ALASKA MILITARY ROAD

A roadcut just north and west of Building 22 (New Bakery) is distinct and marks the terminus of the Trans-Alaska Military Road according to a 1901 map of Fort Egbert (Fitzpatrick 1901). The remainder of the road possibly coincides at certain points with the current road to American Creek.

Photo: C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon Archives; 1977 Field Survey: Roll 9 (7, 8)

ROAD BETWEEN BUILDING 14 AND BUILDING 24

Portions of a roadcut are visible near Building 24 but it is difficult to determine if it once extended all the way to Building 14 as shown on maps of the fort. Archeological excavations were undertaken near Building 14 where the road was to pass, but no clear evidence that it extended that far were apparent in the stratigraphy of the soil. The reader is referred to the discussion of these excavations found earlier in this report.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 5 (14, 15)

ROAD BETWEEN BUILDING 30 AND BUILDING 14

This road has been obliterated on its eastern end near Building 30 possibly from the removal of Building 30 and by the present road from C Street to the airfield. West of the current road a roadcut and road are very distinct as one approaches Building 14. An archeological test trench was placed across the road at one point to determine how the road was built and the results of these findings are discussed elsewhere in the report.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 4 (1, 2)

ROAD BETWEEN BUILDING 15 AND C STREET

A roadcut with a paralleling berm is visible extending south to C Street from Building 15. Although the road presently is not passable except on foot, its limits are clear.

C STREET

The entire length of C Street is visible although in varying degrees. The eastern portion is still used for foot and motor vehicle travel and is used primarily by those who have residences along the street. The western portion is little used but is still passable by motor vehicle. Parallel to the north margin of the street from opposite the site of Building 42 and extending west was found a berm (4 feet wide and 1 foot high) which may have indicated the location of a fence which ran along C Street at the southeastern boundary of Fort Egbert.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 4 (7, 8)

ROAD BETWEEN BUILDING 32 AND BUILDING 34

A roadcut was clearly visible between these two buildings although it is partially overgrown. This road is not shown on original maps of the fort although it was probably in use at the time that the fort was occupied.

ROAD BETWEEN BUILDING 20 AND BUILDING 34

This road is still clearly visible although it is partially overgrown in places. It can still function for foot, snow machine, trailbike, and dog sled travel. About one-third the distance between Building 20 and Building 34, a wooden bridge which no longer remains was built along the road in order to be able to cross an apparently natural ditch about 6 feet wide and 3 feet deep.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 14 (9)

ROAD FROM TRANS-ALASKA MILITARY ROAD TO BUILDINGS 35 AND 34

The entire length of this road is still visible and loops around Building 34 to connect with the road from that point to Building 20. The road is currently blocked on the western terminus in order that motor vehicles do not use the road although trail bikes and snow machines can easily enter the road. This dirt road probably remains much as it was in the past.

ROAD BETWEEN BUILDING 11 AND BUILDING 23

Almost the entire length of this road has been obliterated by the airfield, current roads, or the growth of trees and brush. Only the easternmost extent of the road is visible as it coincides with the current road used between the modern dump and a boat landing on the Yukon River just north of the site of Building 23.

GRAVEL WALKS

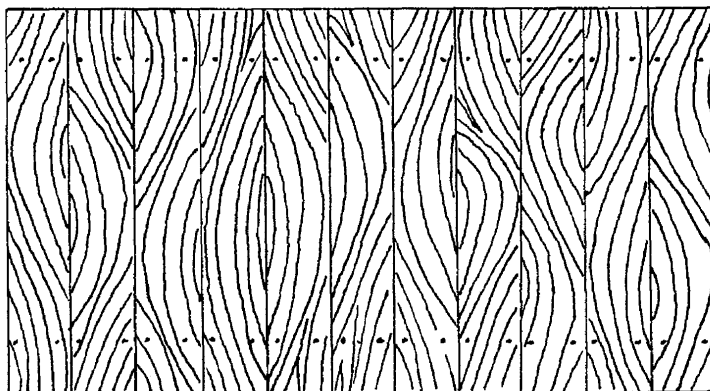
No surface evidence was found anywhere where there were once gravel walks. These walks were originally located between Building 21 and extended south to Building 8 thence southeast to Building 33. Another gravel walk extended east/west between two major roads on the fort and passed between Building 11 and Building 5.

BOARDWALKS

The remains of a boardwalk were found and extended between Building 20 and Building 34. This particular boardwalk was constructed with 1-1/4 by 8-inch planks 48 inches long nailed to stringers 1-3/4 by 4-1/2 inches placed 37-1/2 inches apart. Although this boardwalk is in a very decayed state, it is visible along the entire route in the leaf cover of the ground surface. No evidence was found for the other boardwalks which once extended between Building 20 and Building 11 nor the ones which extended along the front of Buildings 30 and 29 thence east to the south of Buildings 2, 4, and 28. No surface evidence for the boardwalk along the Officer's Row between Building 1 and Building 2 was observed. Another boardwalk which extended along the north margin of C Street from opposite Building 33 east to First Avenue is no longer visible on the ground surface.

All of these boardwalks were probably constructed in 1906 since the \$2,600.00 allocated for their construction was not made available until November, 1905 (Quartermaster General 1905).

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 14 (7, 8)

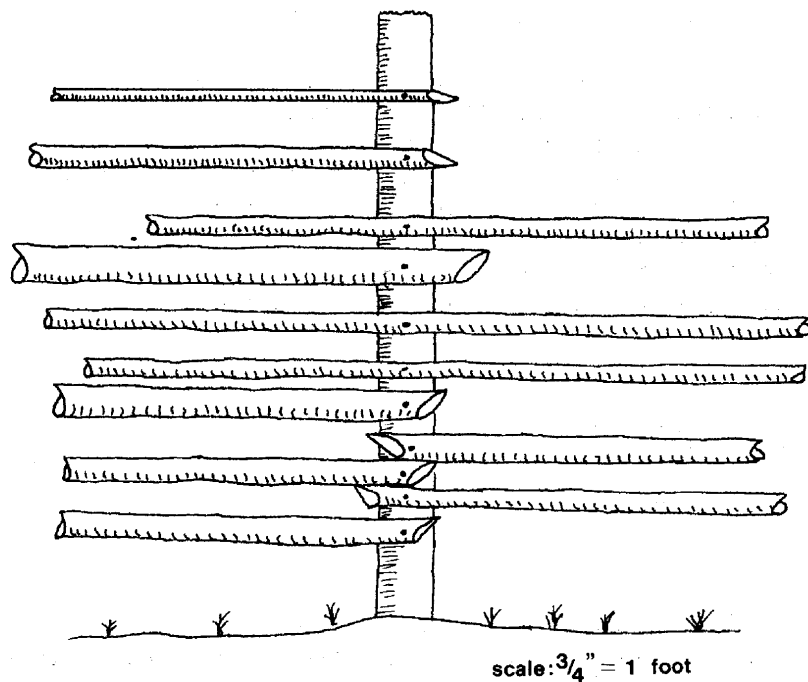


scale: $\frac{1}{2}$ " = 1 foot



FENCE REMAINS

Pole Fence: The remains of a pole fence in the vicinity of the site of the Post Garden were found during the survey. The locality consisted of about 10 linear feet of horizontal timbers which had been nailed to an upright post. The pole timbers had been modified on the ends where they were nailed to the post with 20d nails. These poles varied in diameter between 1-1/4 inches and 3-1/8 inches. The post measured 4-1/2 inches in diameter and extended 5 feet 1-1/4 inches above the ground surface (see sketch). These remains were located west of Building 14 at the point where the fence changed from a north-south direction to a northwest-southeast direction. Along these lines was a berm and/or trail which probably corresponds to the routing of the fence which no longer remains. A berm was also visible on the south where the fence ran in an east-west direction along C Street. Some evidence



of a berm was observed southwest of Building 14 but it is difficult to determine whether this was associated with a fence line or whether it is the result of some more recent disturbance in the area.

No evidence of the location of the pole fence south of Building 24 was found, nor were any indications of this fence from south of Building 24 to south of Building 14 observed. A berm was observed, however, south of Buildings 27 and 39 and may coincide with the location of the pole fence in that vicinity. No indications of this fence which extended east-west and south of Buildings 41, 13, 30, and 29 were found.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 5 (4-7)

Corral Fence: No indications of the wire or earlier slab wood fence which once surrounded the corral were visible on the ground surface. Archeological excavations at Building 14 did reveal subsurface indications of the fence's existence and this is discussed in the text of this report.

Picket Fence: Along the north margin of C Street and extending west from opposite the site of Building 42 to south of Building 41 was observed a berm which may indicate the fence line of the picket fence which was once along this southern boundary of the fort. No surface evidence for the fence was found east from Building 42 along the north margin of C Street to the Yukon River.

SOUTH FLAGPOLE PLATFORM

Location: Fig. 5: South Flagstaff

Description:

Size: The flagpole platform measures 6 feet 10 inches (east/west axis) by 6 feet 8 inches (north/south axis). The flagstaff was placed in a hole at the center of the platform which is keyhole-shaped

and measures 11 inches in diameter with a 2 by 4-inch rectangular hole on the west of the circular hole.

Remains: The flagpole platform consists of a concrete slab. A 9-3/4 inch spike was found at a 45 degree angle in the hole.

Condition: The concrete platform is fairly intact with some deterioration on the southeast and northwest margins. It is presently covered with leaves and aspen trees are growing around its perimeter.

Current Use: The platform is not currently used, but it is located in a storage area for old and non-operating vehicles of the Alaska State Highway garage and is in danger of disturbance.

Historic Data:

A flagstaff at this location was noted on one of the later maps of Fort Egbert (Peek n.d.). It is difficult to determine whether this site replaced the earlier one to the north or whether both were used.

Photo: C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon Archives; 1977 Field Survey: Roll 3 (7-10)

NORTH FLAGPOLE PLATFORM

Location: Fig. 5: North Flagstaff

Description:

Size: No size of an archeological feature could be determined since no feature was visible on the ground surface.

Remains: No remains were found.

Condition: The locality of the site of the north flagpole is within an aspen forest. It is difficult to determine whether the site was disturbed and obliterated when the flagpole was

no longer used or whether the natural growth processes of the forest have obscured the site.

Current Use: This area is not presently used.

Historic Data:

A flagstaff is shown at this location on the earlier fort maps (Fitzpatrick 1901, Kelly 1904). It is not shown on a later map drawn by Peek (n.d.) which shows only the south flagpole, but it is shown on a 1912 map of the fort which may have been drawn from earlier maps.

Photo: C. L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon Archives.

WEST FLAGPOLE

Location: Located between the east margin of Building 11 and the current road to the airfield.

Description:

Size: The base of the flagpole measures 8 by 15-1/2 inches while the flagpole itself at the base measures 7-1/2 inches in diameter. The flagpole is supported in the ground by vertical boards which measure 4 by 8 inches and extend 43-1/2 inches above the ground.

Remains: The flagpole is intact and still standing. The wood appears as if it has been preserved with creosote.

Condition: The flagpole appears in very good condition.

Current Use: The use of this flagpole which is functional is not certain.

Historic Data:

This flagpole does not appear on any maps of the fort and probably post-dates the occupation and abandonment of the fort.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 3 (17, 18)

STONE-LINED DITCH

Location: Located east of the site of Building 11 south to the road cut visible south of the site of Building 15.

Description:

Size: The stone-lined ditch extends about 100 feet and is 4 feet 6 inches wide and 1 foot deep.

Remains: Various size stones, many about 5 inches across are still in place in the ditch. No other remains were observed in the area.

Condition: The ditch has been disturbed at only one point near the site of the east wing of Building 11. Much of the ditch is filled with leaves.

Current Use: Most of the area is not currently used except for fill activity which has occurred near the northern limit of the ditch.

Historic Data:

There was no information on this ditch in the quartermaster's records.

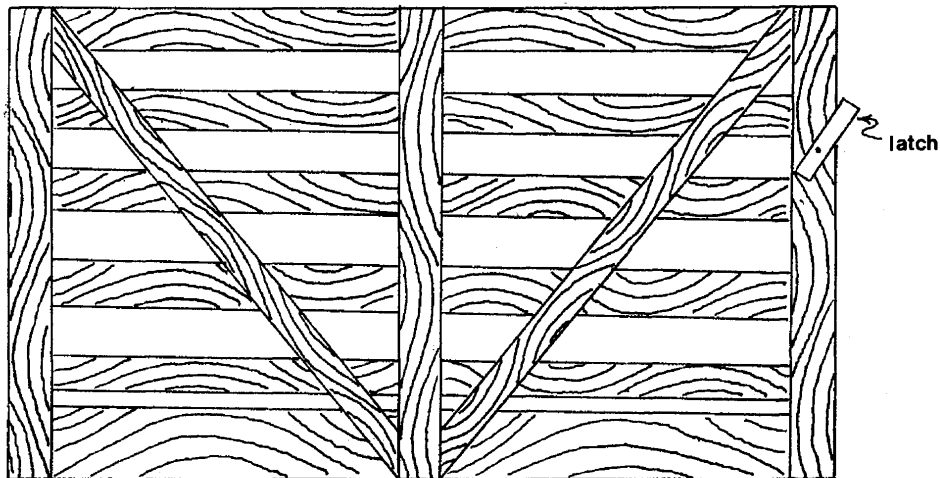
Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 3 (19, 20)

CORRAL GATE

Location: This gate was found west of the intersection of two roads south of the site of Building 15.

Description:

Size: The gate measures 8 feet 7 inches wide by 5 feet in height.



scale: $\frac{1}{2}$ " = 1 foot

Remains: This gate is constructed of three vertical pieces all approximately $1\frac{1}{3}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inch pieces attached to two vertical pieces--the upper one $\frac{3}{4}$ by $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches and the lower $\frac{3}{4}$ by $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches--and two diagonal pieces $\frac{3}{4}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The horizontal cross pieces, of which there are four, are all $\frac{3}{4}$ by $5\frac{1}{4}$ or $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches except for one which measures $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 inches. A latch was found still attached to the inside of the gate and measured $\frac{7}{8}$ by $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches by 11 inches long.

Condition: The gate is certainly in a decayed state as it was found well embedded in the leaf cover of the ground surface. It remains in good enough condition that it could be reconstructed exactly.

Current Use: The area in which the gate was found is not used at present.

Historic Data:

This gate was observed in a photograph which is on display in the Eagle Museum. The gate was located south and west of the Wagon Shed (Building 15) and formed part of the corral fence.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 8 (14-17); panoramic photo of Fort Egbert in Eagle Museum.

TARGET RANGE

Location: Fig. 5: Target Range

Description:

Size: A large feature which indicated the site of part of the once larger Target Range measured 35 feet (north/south axis) by 300 feet (east/west axis).

Remains: No remains were found other than the large sandy feature.

Condition: The area reveals a sandy area with some birch trees and lowbush cranberry bushes growing in the defined area and a denser birch forest around the feature.

Current Use: The area is apparently not used at present.

Historic Data:

The Target Range is shown on one of the earliest maps of the fort and is indicated to have been 600 yards long and 100 yards wide (Fitzpatrick 1901). A later map of the military reservation also indicated the range to have been the same size (Anonymous 1906).

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 14 (16, 17)

WOODYARD

Location: Fig. 5: Woodyard

Description:

Size: The area of the first woodyard measures about 150 feet by 200 feet while the area of the second woodyard measures about 200 feet by 200 feet.

Remains: No material or feature remains were visible on the ground surface.

Condition: Both areas have been subject to the disturbance involved in making the airfield and associated roads. Part of the second woodyard was subject to further disturbance during the construction of the BLM Fire Guard Station. Both areas reveal predominately short grass.

Current Use: The first woodyard presently functions as part of the airfield and associated roads while the second is now used as part of the airfield and by the BLM Fire Guard Station personnel. In the summer, softball games are held frequently in the same area.

Historic Data:

A 1901 map of Fort Egbert defines an area between Building 20 and Building 12 as the woodyard which is located at the terminus of a "Wood Road" which enters from the direction of Mission Creek (Fitzpatrick 1901). By 1904, however, the woodyard had apparently been relocated at the eastern end of the fort on the high bank overlooking the Yukon River and above the site of the Sawmill (Building 23) (Kelly 1904).

CEMETERY (EAG 047)

Location: Fig. 5: Cemetery

Description:

Size: The site of the cemetery measures 97 feet 11 inches (east/west axis) by 215 feet 3 inches (north/south axis).

Remains: A picket fence surrounds the cemetery. This fence is completely intact. A gate at the north was still in place and measured 7 feet 10 inches wide by 5 feet 8 inches high and was located about 57 feet from the northwest corner of the cemetery. Another gate was observed on the east 152 feet from the northeast corner but measured 8 feet 5-1/2 inches wide. Outside of the cemetery

were found a wooden cross and two wooden grave markers and other wood debris near the southeast corner of the cemetery. Within the cemetery about 75 graves with some sort of headstone were observed. The marked graves indicated burials made between 1901 and 1973. The largest number of the graves displayed a headstone marked simply "Civilian" on a white stone. Other graves displayed a metal head marker that noted that the individual belonged to the "Improved Order of Red Men" while others displayed a small wooden cross or wooden marker at the head of the grave. Some graves had a marble marker and one was marked by a large wooden cross. None of the graves clearly indicated that the deceased individual had been associated with the military.

Condition: The fence surrounding the cemetery appears to be in good condition although the white paint has long faded. A qualified person should examine the condition of the wood.

Current Use: The cemetery appears to still be in use as indicated by the 1973 burial and the presence of some artificial flowers at some of the graves.

Historic Data:

Only seven military men were buried in the cemetery during the operation of Fort Egbert from 1899 to 1911. The cemetery was divided into two halves--one for Catholics (the southern half) and one for those of other denominations (the northern half) (Scher 1905e). The two halves were separated by a fence with a gate at the middle. A gate was located at the northern end at the center for entering that section and another gate was located in the southeast of the Catholic section.

Within each half, the eastern part served for the burial of deceased soldiers while the western half was intended for deceased civilians. It is uncertain whether the military devised the areas within the cemetery for Catholics and other denominations since the cemetery was established by the municipal government of Eagle in 1898 and was taken over by the military in 1899 (Scher 1905e).

The first interment of a military person was in June, 1901--a private in Company E of the 7th Infantry (Tillman 1901). The following year a sergeant and another private of the same company were also buried (Janda 1902). One other soldier died before the end of 1905 (Scher 1906). Each grave was marked with a headstone. By January, 1908, a total of five soldiers had been interred at the cemetery and twenty-one civilians (of whom three were Catholic) (Quartermaster at Fort Egbert 1908). Headstones for the civilians were requested by the quartermaster to replace the wooden headboards. During the year of 1908, only two other soldiers were buried--one who had drowned at Dawson on his return to the United States and another who had committed suicide (Hill 1910). In July, 1909, the soldier who drowned was disinterred and the body sent to the National Cemetery at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, for reburial (Hill 1910).

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 15 (8, 9)

WATER TANK NEAR SAWMILL

Location: Fig. 5: Water tank

Description:

Size: No size of an archeological feature could be determined since there was no clear surface indication of a building site.

Remains: There were no material or structural remains on the ground surface. Several holes and depressions about 3 feet square were observed in the area but it is uncertain whether these were associated with the water tank.

Condition: This area is partially forested with aspen trees. It is unclear if any disturbance has taken place in the past.

Current Use: This area is presently used as the site of an outhouse for the BLM Fire Guard Station and as a campfire gathering area as well as an occasional campsite for BLM fire control personnel and archeological crews.

Historic Data:

This locality was noted on two of the earlier maps of Fort Egbert as being the site of a water tank about 20 feet in diameter (Fitzpatrick 1901, Kelly 1904).

SMALL PITS ON BANK ABOVE SAWMILL

Location: These pits were located about 30 feet west of the site of the water tank.

Description:

Size: Pit 1: This wood-lined pit measured 26 inches by 15 inches and was 10 inches in depth although ice was present in the bottom and possibly disguised the actual depth.

Pit 2: This pit measured 22 inches by 13 inches and was 11 inches in depth and was not wood-lined.

Remains: Both pits are rectangular in shape. Only Pit 1 revealed any structural remains which were the wooden sides. It almost appeared as if a rectangular wooden crate were placed in a hole in the ground. Neither had any material items associated with the small pits.

Condition: Both pits seemed to be well preserved and quite distinct.

Current Use: Neither pit appeared to be used at present.

Historic Data:

No information was found on these pits or any type of wood-lined or other pits excavated on the fort grounds. Their function and period of use remains uncertain.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 1 (8-11)

CABIN REMAINS NEAR BUILDING 32

Location: The remains of a cabin were found at the base of the bank on which Building 32 was constructed about 42 feet from the building site.

Description:

Size: The cabin size measured 10 feet (north/south axis) by 15 feet (east/west axis).

Remains: Only about three basal logs of this cabin were still remaining at the site. The northeast corner of the cabin revealed that a modified dovetail type of notching was used on the aspen logs. Other remains within the cabin foundation were galvanized sheet metal, 1 by 3-1/2 inch tongue-and-groove decking fragments, two wooden crates, and some glass and metal conductors for the telegraph. It is uncertain whether any or all of these items were actually associated with the occupation of the cabin.

Condition: Most of the site has been disturbed by the apparent removal of most of the logs from the cabin. It is possible that the cabin served as a trash repository for the occupants of Building 32 since some telegraph-associated materials were found at the site.

Current Use: This site is not used at present.

Historic Data:

There is no information in the quartermaster's records regarding a building near Building 32. It is possible that this log cabin predated the occupation of the fort and such cabins were apparently purchased by the government (Quartermaster General 1899b).

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 12 (10-12)

BUILDING REMAINS NEAR NEW HOSPITAL (Building 34)

Location: These remains were found on the opposite side of the New Hospital along the road from the New

Hospital to the Surgeon's Quarters (Building 35). More specifically, the remains are located on the west side of the junction of the road from the Medical Corps Quarters and the road which loops around the New Hospital.

Description:

Size: The building site measures 12 feet (north/south axis) by 18 feet (east/west axis).

Remains: Located on a slight natural mound, a depression typifies this site. Some frame structural remains were found in the depression along with some barrel staves.

Condition: The remains are in a very decayed state and it is difficult to determine whether any subsurface remains still exist.

Current Use: This area is not currently used.

Historic Data:

There was no historic information found for the building which once stood at this locality near the New Hospital. It is interesting to note that its setting and size are nearly identical to the building remains found near the Old Hospital (Building 20).

BUILDING REMAINS NEAR BUILDING 20 (Old Hospital, Laundry)

Location: The remains of a building were found about 40 feet north of the site of Building 20.

Description:

Size: The building site measures 12 feet by 18 feet.

Remains: Located on a slight natural mound, depression typifies this site. Some structural remains from a floor were found in the depression along with a pit lined on three sides with wood. It is difficult to determine whether this pit was associated with the building which was once on the site or whether it was made after the building was abandoned and/or removed.

Condition: The remaining structural pieces in the ground surface are in a decayed state and it was not possible to tell the extent of the subsurface remains, if any, and their condition.

Current Use: This area is not currently used.

Historic Data:

There was no historic information found for this building which once stood near the Old Hospital. It is interesting to note that its setting and size are nearly identical to the building remains found near the New Hospital (Building 34).

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 11 (14, 15)

POST GARDEN

Location: Fig. 5: Post Garden

Description:

Size: The site of the Post Garden covered about four acres to the west and south of the corral.

Remains: The area exhibited no material items related to garden activities. Structural remains of the pole fence and corral fence which once bordered the garden were not visible on the ground surface except at one point. Material items which were found included four localities. About 100 feet from the southwest corner of Building 14 were an abandoned Chevrolet and tractor hood. About 50 feet north of this locality was a pile of cans which included a sardine can and a can for Monogram Leaf Tobacco. Nearby was a five-gallon can which had been converted to a bucket complete with a heavy gauge wire handle. In the same area were found a large concentration of heavy gauge wire and a barrel stave. About 70 feet south of this area was a nearly 4-foot square pit that was 1 foot deep. No cultural material was observed.

To the west of all this material is a trail which follows a berm which may be an indication of the fence line that surrounded the garden. About 200 feet west of Building 14 were found the remains of a portion of this pole fence. Cross pieces were nailed to timber pole uprights with nails. The diameter of the cross pieces varied and ranged from 1-1/4 inches to 3 inches and were trimmed on the ends to allow the piece to be flush when it was nailed to the upright. One post extended a little more than 5 feet above the ground surface and measured 4-1/2 inches in diameter.

Condition: Most of the area now displays birch, aspen, and spruce vegetation although some areas are only covered by tall grass. The fence remains are in a very decayed state but do allow one to still observe how the original fence was constructed.

Current Use: Some of the remains indicate that portions have been used for the abandonment of motor vehicle parts. More recently it was observed that children sometimes play in the area, but otherwise the area is not used.

Historic Data:

The Post Garden first appeared on a map of the fort in 1904 (Kelly 1904) and also on a 1906 map of the Fort Egbert military reservation (Anonymous 1907). It is unclear in the historic records whether this was the only period in which the garden functioned and there is only correspondence concerning the garden in the quartermaster's records from 1905. This letter is a request for the purchase of hoes, rakes, and harrows (Littel 1905) while another and later letter is a reminder of a July 25, 1892, government order which stated that "hereafter no money appropriated for the support of the Army shall be expended for post gardens" (Clayton 1909). Local residents report, however, that Lundeen's farm on the opposite side of the Yukon River supplied the fort with garden produce and dairy products (F.S. #64).

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 4 (9-20), Roll 5 (2-7)

WATER PIPELINE, WATER WARMING HOUSES, OVER-FLOW TANK

Location: Fig. 5: Waterline, Warming Houses, Over-flow tank.

Description:

Size: The water line extended about 3000 feet from American Creek to a point near the corral where it terminated. Six water warming houses and a water tank were found associated with the route of the line. House 1 measured 6 feet 5 inches by 6 feet 5 inches by 6 feet in height; House 2 measured 5 feet 7-1/2 inches by 4 feet 7-1/2 inches by 4-1/2 feet in height; House 3 was 5 feet by 5 feet 3 inches (height could not be determined); House 4 measured 5 feet by 5 feet 3 inches by 4 feet 4 inches in height; House 5 measured 5 feet by 5 feet 6 inches by 4 feet 5 inches in height; and House 6 measured approximately 5 feet square but height could not be determined. (Please note that it is not certain on the basis of the remains whether the existing height of the structure was the original height except for House 1.)

The probable over-flow tank located between Houses 5 and 6 measured 13 feet 6 inches in diameter and is about 5 feet in height although some of the tank is below ground surface.

Remains: Structural debris was observed in the ground surface almost along the entire route of the line from House 1 to House 5. A 29-foot ditch with some structural debris was also observed between House 1 and the boiler at the base of the hill to the north.

House 1: The remains of this structure are relatively intact. The building had stud walls with drop siding on the exterior and horizontally-laid tongue-and-groove decking on the interior. Batting was placed on the interior walls to which some sort of asbestos paper was applied. Sawdust was used for insulation and black building paper was found at the site. This warming house had a small framed-in opening in the west wall with a door entry framed in the east wall. No roof,

door, or window were still on the structure. South of this house a feature was observed which measured nearly 18 feet square. The feature was a shallow depression with a slight berm around its perimeter. No structural debris or material items were found associated with the feature.

House 2: This structure is located about 218 feet from House 1. Wood debris was observed in a shallow ditch which extended from the west of House 1 to the northwest corner of the House 2 structure. This structure was built similarly to House 1 although it is in a more advanced state of disrepair. The north wall has fallen and the west wall has been nearly half removed. No roof remained.

House 3: The remains of this building were found about one-half the distance between House 2 and the south end of the cemetery. Little remains of this structure which has completely fallen and has been further disturbed by squirrels.

House 4: This warming house is located along the pipeline route about 80 feet from the cemetery. The construction is similar to Houses 1 and 2 and also has no roof remaining. There are openings (of unknown function) framed in the west and east walls and a doorway on the north. The south wall has been charred on the interior. There is no batting on the interior walls or any sign of asbestos wall lining. It is unclear whether the existing height was the original height.

House 5: This warming house is similar to House 4 except that the framed openings are located near the top of the west and east walls. No roof was seen. This building is located about 500 to 600 feet from House 4.

Water or Over-Flow Tank: This structure was found about half the distance between Houses 5 and 6. Although the tank is not completely intact, it appeared to have had vertical planks about the circumference. Lead piping was observed in the tank remains. A trail is visible to the south of the tank and turns toward the north shortly thereafter as one approaches the main

fort area. It is difficult to follow the route of the pipeline beyond this turning point.

House 6: This structure is located near the western limit of the airfield and about 100 feet to the south. There was no sign of a route or trail to this warming house from either House 5 or the water tank. The remains are completely fallen and only two of the walls were observed. A wooden crate was found at the site.

No clear indication of the waterline route was found at the eastern end of the line. Some lead pipe was found west of the Granary (Building 17) and this may mark the eastern terminus. There is no connection such as a trail between this point and either House 5, the over-flow tank, or House 6.

Condition: Much of the route of the waterline is obscured in the ground surface although it can be found at the site of House 5. Decayed wood remains are visible in the ground surface. The warming houses are in various states of disrepair ranging from House 1 which is the most intact to House 3 which is almost entirely non-existent. None of the remains include a roof to any structure.

Current Use: The two warming houses located within the BLM campground serve for the purpose of visitor observation. The general route of the pipeline is often followed by hikers or local people when traveling between the campground and the main area of the fort.

Historic Data:

Water for the fort was initially drawn from a well near the Sawmill (Building 23) and was probably pumped to a water tank which is shown on one of the earliest fort maps on the hill above (Fitzpatrick 1901, Scher 1905a). This well was repeatedly cited as being unsanitary since it was subject to seepage from the river and the "natural surface drainage from the post and town" (Scher 1905a). By May, 1905, another system had apparently been established which pumped water from a spring near American Creek. The water was

carried from the spring in three barrels joined near the bottoms making a sort of "cistern wherefrom the water is pumped up into a water tank place on top of a hill directly above the spring..." (Scher 1905a). The water then traveled through a 3-inch pipeline which terminated at the corral and was then "hauled in iron tanks to the buildings at the post" (Scher 1905a). The Hospital (Building 20) and Barracks (Building 21) were reportedly already connected to the system with 1- and 2-inch pipes.

At the same time, the quartermaster and commanding officer of the fort devised another system for getting water from the spring to the fort. During the previous year, an experiment had been conducted at the barracks with a sewer line from the washroom. The sewer pipe had been boxed in and hot air circulated about it by means of a "blue-flame" or wickless oil stove (Scher 1905a). Major Plummer recommended that the same system be used for the water line and that the pipe be boxed in and surrounded with sawdust and manure with "man-holes" (warming houses) equipped with "blue-flame" stoves placed 300 yards apart for keeping the water warm enough to insure continual flowing (Plummer 1905b).

Quartermaster Scher additionally requested money for hot air pumps and a large cistern of 20,000-gallon capacity along with 4-inch pipe so that the system could also be used for fire control (Scher 1905a). The Quartermaster General, however, did not recommend using the system for fire control since, as he stated, the pipes were too small and suggested that a wooden 20,000-gallon tank be stored in a wooden building, that two hot air pumps be used and that all pipes be boxed (Quartermaster General n.d.). By September, 1905, \$2,000 was allotted for construction to begin (Quartermaster General 1905b). An additional \$2,500 was granted in November for the covering of the tank and the boxing of the pipe was evidently well under way at that time (Chief Quartermaster 1905). Correspondence during the winter of 1906 noted that only a portion of the system was in use--water was taken from the spring to the pump and pumped to the water tank. It was suggested again at that time that the "man-holes" or warming houses be used to keep the system open (Plummer 1906). During that winter, a steam engine pumped water to the 20,000-gallon tank where

the water wagon which was placed on sled runners was filled with heated water (Catts 1906a).

By late July, 1906, when G. R. Catts and Major Moon began serving at Fort Egbert as quartermaster and commanding officer, respectively, and they reviewed the proposed water system. By that time, the system was to consist of pipes laid eight feet into the ground which would be heated with heated water and circulating hot air around the pipes by 13 warming houses (Catts 1906a). An additional three more miles of pipe had to be laid, a plumber hired, and coal oil purchased for the stoves in order to complete the system (Catts 1906a). Both the quartermaster and commanding officer felt that the system would be too expensive to operate, require too much maintenance in the winter, and that the enlisted men were involved in other fort projects. In August, 1906, Major Moon's recommendation that the system be abandoned until the garrison was increased was approved (Chief Quartermaster 1906). Instead, water pipes were encased in 14-inch square wooden boxes for the 1-1/4 mile distance between the spring and the corral. A cabin was built over the spring and a structure was built over the boiler and pump with nearby quarters for an engineer and fireman (Catts 1906b). Six warming houses were built along the water pipeline placed 200 to 300 yards apart. These were to house the oil ("blue-flame") stoves.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 15 (5, 6, 7, 10)

DUMP (REFUSE AREA)

Extensive material debris was observed over the bank near the north margin of the core area and extended some 1200 feet. A variety of early twentieth century cultural material was present on the ground surface. Abandoned and current collecting areas created by some members of the local population revealed that material debris was also present in some areas to a depth of at least 12 inches beneath the ground surface. Specific items of material culture associated with the occupation of Building 1 (Commanding Officer's Quarters) and Building 3 (Officer's Quarters) are recorded on the data sheets for those buildings.

One locality in the eastern portion of this extensive refuse area continues to be used by the local population for depositing trash, abandoned vehicles, and a variety of other items. It also serves as a locality where townspeople collect useful items which can be recycled or sold.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 11 (2), Roll 12 (19, 20)

APPENDIX IV
FIELD SURVEY DATA SHEETS

FIELD SURVEY #1

Location: Fig. 50:1; Fig. 51:1

Description: This locality consists of two areas indicative of past activity within a 50-foot area. Located on the top edge of a high bank overlooking the American Creek valley near its mouth was a rectangular pit nearly 3 feet deep and about 4 by 8 feet. Several small trees which probably grew up after the pit was abandoned have fallen into the pit from the edges. About 50 feet in from the edge of the ridge some milled lumber of undetermined dimensions in a very decayed state was found in the ground surface. Wire nails, 16d and 20d, were associated with these structural pieces. This planking also had additional planking beneath it but laid perpendicular to the pieces above it.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: None

Present Condition and Use: As noted above, the pit has fallen in on the sides and the wood is in a very decayed state. The area does not appear to be used at present during the summer but may be used in the winter.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 15 (10, 11)

FIELD SURVEY #2

Location: Fig. 50:2; Fig. 51:2

Description: This area is the site of a timber cutting area and a locality where a trap had been set. The timber cutting area was located at the base of a steep bank of a ridge which overlooked the Mission Creek valley.

At the edge of the ridge above the timber cutting area a trap set was found. A No. 1 trap which had sprung was hung on a spruce timber which was attached at an angle to a point about 3 feet

above the ground on a large spruce tree. A piece of red yarn with a piece of fish skin attached hung from the large spruce tree so as to have the fish skin intercept the point where the small timber was attached to the tree. A piece of fluorescent orange flagging tape was attached to a branch of the tree. A trail was observed near the edge of the bank and passed by this trap set.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: The timber cutting area appears to be the result of activities many years ago. It may be related to activities at Fort Egbert since a wood-hauling road not too distant has been observed on original maps of the Fort. However, it is still likely that the road was used by others after the fort was abandoned.

The trap set looked like the result of the previous winter's work since none of the materials such as the yarn or tape had weathered to any noticeable degree. This trap was probably set for the acquisition of marten. It has been reported that northern trappers of the Black River in Alaska would set No. 1 traps for marten in hilly areas along a trail about every 100 yards (Nelson 1973:218-220). Strong-smelling rotted fish was often used as bait for the cubby or pole set although the Chalkyitsik people of the Black River seldom used pole sets (such as the one found on our survey) since marten "often pass them by" (Nelson 1973:222).

Present Condition and Use: The timber cutting locality does not appear to be used at present. The trap set, as noted above, was probably used in 1976-77 and is located along someone's current trapline. It is likely that it will be used again in the coming seasons.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 15 (12)

FIELD SURVEY #3

Location: Fig. 50:3; Fig. 51:3

Description: Structural timbers for a frame for a 10 by 12-foot tent were found. The crosspieces to hold the ridge pole were still in place as were side stacks which outlined the tent area. Material items found within and about the campsite included a Sorel boot, a five-gallon can, a Dinty Moore Beef Stew can, an evaporated milk can, a beer can, a Spam-like meat can and caribou antlers. The site was located near the edge of a bank which overlooked American Creek. About 100 feet from the campsite was a foot bridge which crossed a shallow gulley beyond which was a timber cutting area. This timber cutting area was marked by the presence of tree stumps and two sawhorses.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: The remains of this campsite are probably associated with hunters who used the area sometime during the past 20 years but this cannot be said with any certainty. This interpretation is based on the relatively low degree of decay and weathering of some of the material items. The presence of caribou antlers may indicate that this was a fall camp used for spotting and taking caribou although it could be used as well as a lookout for moose in the valley or as a temporary trapping camp. It is difficult to determine if the campsite is associated with native or non-native users.

The timber cutting area appears to be the results of activities many years ago, but its time of use is difficult to say with any certainty. Residents of both the city and the village rely on wood for heat to the present day.

Present Condition and Use: Neither area appears to be used at present although indications of a trapline were found within 500 feet of the area. The tent frame is still functional and the site remains a good lookout area although the game population has diminished considerably in recent years in this area.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 15 (13, 14)

FIELD SURVEY #4

Location: Fig. 50:4; Fig. 51:4

Description: This locality is situated within a mixed spruce and birch forest near an abandoned road. It is marked by the presence of four spruce trees which delineate an area of about 4 feet by 10 feet. Horizontal crosspieces, also of spruce, were lashed to the trees with baling wire at a height of about 4 feet above the ground.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: None

Present Condition and Use: This arrangement of spruce timbers is in excellent condition and may have only been constructed during the past year. It is unclear if it was used and what the nature of use or intended use was.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 15 (15)

FIELD SURVEY #5

Location: Fig. 50:5; Fig. 51:5

Description: This trap set is similar in design and location to Field Survey #2. The trap set is located in a spruce forest atop a high ridge near its edge overlooking Mission Creek valley. It consists of a No. 0 trap which has not sprung and is attached to a cut spruce tree about 3 feet above the ground. A piece of red yarn is fixed on one end to a branch of the spruce tree and a piece of fish skin on the other end which hangs over the trap. A piece of fluorescent orange flagging tape is also attached to a branch.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: The trap set looked like the result of the previous winter's work since none of the materials such as the yarn or tape had weathered to any noticeable degree.

This trap was probably set for the acquisition of marten. It has been reported that northern trappers of the Black River in Alaska would set No. 1 traps for marten in hilly areas along a trail about every 100 yards (Nelson 1973:218-220). Strong-smelling rotted fish was often used as bait for the cubby or pole set although the Chalkyitsik people of the Black River seldom used pole sets (such as the one found on our survey) since marten "often pass them by" (Nelson 1973:222).

Present Condition and Use: The trap set is in good condition except for the bait and as noted above, was probably used in 1976-1977. It is located along someone's current trapline and it is likely that it will be used again in the coming seasons.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 15 (16)

FIELD SURVEY #6

Location: Fig. 50:6; Fig. 51:6

Description: An abandoned road and some material items were found in this area. The road is visible most of its way as it parallels Mission Creek from its junction near the road between Mission Creek and Building 21 toward American Creek. The road is in a muskeg-scrub spruce forest and is impassable during the summer except perhaps by an all-terrain vehicle although it could probably serve as a route for snow machine or sled travel in the winter. Material items found included a galvanized metal pail, size No. 18, with two slices in the bottom apparently produced by an axe. Within 300 feet of this point we observed two five-gallon cans and some cut timbers which had 40d spikes in them.

Cultural Affiliation: U.S. Military; early twentieth century

Interpretation: This road and associated items appears to be the result of activities in the earlier part of the century. They may be related to activities at Fort Egbert since the Mission Creek-Building 21 road was once used for hauling wood according to early maps of the fort. It is quite possible that the road indicated here also served as a wood hauling road in the winter since it did connect with the Mission Creek road and cut timbers were observed throughout this area between the ridge and Mission Creek.

Present Condition and Use: As noted above, this road is in poor condition in the summer but could probably be used in the winter by persons traveling by snow machine or dog team.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #7

Location: Fig. 50:7; Fig. 51:7

Description: The remains of a moose fence were found along a moose trail low on a slope at the edge of a muskeg ecosystem. The fence was about 1/4 mile from the left bank of American Creek in a scrub spruce forest. The fence remains extended about 50 feet along the trail. The fence was constructed of spruce timbers which were horizontally placed between vertical pieces which crossed at the top. In some of the timbers were found 20d wire nails which had been used to attach pieces. The fence had been constructed before some of the trees had grown in the area since structural pieces for the fence were embedded in a tree which had grown up and around it.

Cultural Affiliation: Athapaskan Indian

Interpretation: Moose fences were traditionally used by Han Athapaskan Indians in this area as well as by Athapaskan Indians in neighboring areas.

These fences were a common method for acquiring moose at certain times of the year. One native man described similar fences used by the Upper Tanana Athapaskan Indians and were about one mile long extending between two hills where a small creek flowed between the hills. Snares were placed in the fence at intervals and were covered with willow branches. When a moose passed through the opening in the fence, its head would get caught in the snare (Paul 1957:14-15).

Present Condition and Use: The remains of this moose fence are in a very decayed state and will probably be completely fallen in the next few years. Although the fence is no longer used, this area is probably scanned yearly by the local population since it remains a good moose habitat.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 16 (2, 3, 4)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

☒ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☒ Historical

1. Site number

2. Type of site

Abandoned mining claim

3. State

Alaska

County

District Fortymile
Resource Area

4. Map reference

Eagle Quad

5. Location This site is located on the left bank of American Creek in a sharp bend of the stream about two miles from the mouth. The remains were located in a spruce forest between the creek on the east end and muskeg ecosystem about 300 feet to the west.

Section	Township	Range	Meridian
36	T 1 South	R 32 East	Fairbanks

6. Land ownership status

?

7. Other site designations

Field survey #8 in Shinkwin, A. D.
et al. 1978 (see below)

8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use

Euro-American ca. 1900

9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance The remains of a cabin and associated structural features were found at this locality. The cabin remains measured about 12 feet (north/south axis) by 13 feet (east/west axis). The roof of the cabin has fallen in but all four walls of the structure are still intact to a height of six logs high or about 4 feet above the ground surface. The logs have been planed on two sides with an axe. A square hole was observed near the center of the cabin in the ground. The entry to the cabin was on the west. West of the cabin were three pits all with standing water in them. The first, about 20 feet from the cabin, was 5 feet in diameter and had a ladder and notched logs in the pit. The second, about 10 feet farther was 6 feet in diameter and cut logs were observed about it. The third and smallest pit had no wood debris associated with it. Material items near the cabin included a five-gallon can, flashing for stove pipe, wire nails, and a washing tub with a copper bottom.

This site was noted on a 1906 map of the Fort Egbert Military Reservation as the "Approximate location of O. H. Walters Mining Claim."

10. Area of occupation

The area of intensive use is about 100 feet by 100 feet.

11. Present condition

The remains of the cabin and few material items appear to be in good condition although the pits are in poor condition.

12. Photo numbers

1977 Field Survey: Roll 16 (5-7)

13. Informants and references

1906 Reservation Map of Fort Egbert, Alaska.

Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978. Fort Egbert and the Eagle Historic District: Results of Archeological and Historic Research, Summer 1977. Report to BLM.

4. Recorded by

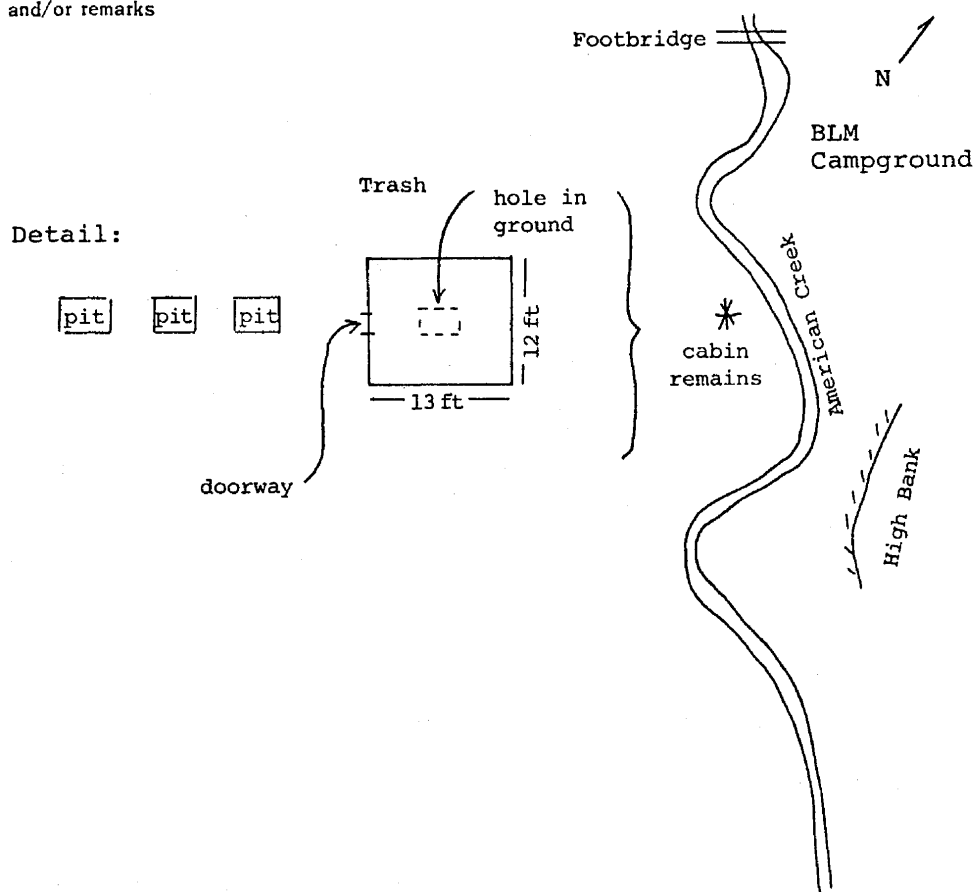
Elizabeth Andrews, Gary Selinger

Date

June 1977

(continued on reverse)

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No This should be determined by a recreation technician.

17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

The site should be test excavated to determine the archeological significance, if any, of the site. The cabin remains are in good condition although incomplete, however, it appears that most of the material items have been removed from the cabin so that few surface indications of past activities and behavior remain. Further surveys in the area may indicate whether this is one of the few remaining cabins on American Creek associated with this period in time so that preservation and/or development could be justified.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

FIELD SURVEY #9

Location: Fig. 50:9; Fig. 51:9

Description: A locality was found on the left bank of American Creek about 1-1/2 miles from the mouth. It was found near the point in a sharp bend of the creek which was to the east and extended about 100 feet to the west where a muskeg environment began. The locality itself was located in a predominantly spruce forest. The site consisted of an area where there was found milled lumber in a decaying state, some five-gallon cans, and a wooden sign of some sort posted on a tree. The writing on the sign could not be read. About 60 feet to the north we observed that the site was on a low terrace or knob and beyond this we found a road that extended from the creek toward the muskeg to the west.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: None

Present Condition and Use: The site does not show any indication of more extensive activity in the past although it is possible that natural processes of forest growth and flooding as well as collecting of material items could have taken place. It is difficult to determine if this area is used at present although there were no signs of use in the summer.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #10

Location: Fig. 50:10; Fig. 51:10

Description: A possible historic campsite was found above a low terrace with an 8-foot bank west of a dry slough of American Creek. The site is located on the left bank of American Creek in a predominantly spruce forest about 200 feet from the creek. This site is characterized by the presence of a number of tree stumps in the area which show that

trees have been cut. Within this area which measured about 100 feet by 100 feet were also found a notched log and several decayed logs although there was no evidence for the presence of any type of structure. Additionally, material items were found and included a Dill's Best Smoking Tobacco can, a Velvet Tobacco can, a Yukon stove and stove pipe, and a Snowdrift Lard can.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: It is difficult to determine the past use of this area. Clearly tree cutting was an activity but may not have coincided with the apparent occupation of the site as a camping area. Although no structural remains were found, it is likely that people camped at the locality since a stove was found. It is possible that a tent was set up but no tent poles were found during our survey. There are no specific remains which might reveal whether the camp was a hunting, trapping, or mining camp.

Present Condition and Use: The site does not appear to be disturbed or used during the summer.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 16 (8, 9)

FIELD SURVEY #11

Location: Fig. 50:11, Fig. 51:11

Description: A lean-to/campsite was found at the base of a large spruce tree just south of a beaver pond. The lean-to was constructed of polyethylene sheeting and spruce boughs which were arranged to form a shelter area about 7 feet high by 8 feet wide with a 5-foot span. The spruce tree supported the construction materials and formed a partial wall of the shelter. No material items other than the sheeting were found. The entire area surrounding the site was predominantly a forest and many tree stumps were the result of beavers who had felled trees.

the valley and on this basis we made a small test excavation (one foot square) but with negative results. It would probably be worthwhile to make more test excavations to determine if this was a prehistoric locality as well.

Present Condition and Use: The area does not appear to be used at present nor disturbed by any unnatural factors.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #14

Location: Fig. 50:14; Fig. 51:14

Description: This site is located in the floodplain of American Creek between two large bends in the stream about 2-1/8 miles above the mouth. Located within this runoff area where cottonwood, aspen, and spruce are present was a Yukon stove and stove pipe. Numerous tree stumps in the area reveal that beaver have been taking trees from this locality.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: The wet area of the floodplain produced by the adjacent American Creek and the lack of any other items or evidence of human use seem to indicate that the stove and pipe which were found have been redeposited at this site from river action.

Present Condition and Use: This area does not appear to be used except by beavers and is probably often under water during spring break-up.

Photo: None

Interpretation: The use of this area is unclear although the sawhorse and cut stumps point to work associated with the felling and cutting of trees. Some of the material items seem to indicate that people camped at the area at some time although no evidence of a campsite or structure or tent frame was found. The purpose of the log nailed to the stump is uncertain. Since the site is located in a boggy area, it is likely that this area was not used in the summer.

Present Condition and Use: The site is not used at present and is well integrated into the natural landscape.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 16 (13, 14)

FIELD SURVEY #13

Location: Fig. 50:13; Fig. 51:13

Description: This possible campsite and work area is located on a high bank about 150 feet above the right limit of American Creek. The area provides an excellent view of the American Creek valley. At one locality were found four small spruce logs which had been cut with an axe on one end into which wire nails have been hammered. These four logs had been stacked next to a tree. In the area were also tree stumps of trees which had been felled. About 50 feet distant were more stumps and a pile of cut trees. Material items were also found in this area and consisted of such things as a Lipton Tea can, a Velvet Pipe and Cigarette Tobacco can, a Snowdrift Lard can, and two large wooden barrels. No structural timbers or tent frames were found.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: This appears to be a work area on the basis of the cut tree stumps and logs in the area. The material items seem to indicate that people camped here at some time although no evidence of a structure or frame were found. The location is excellent for making a visual reconnaissance of

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: This temporary shelter appears to have been constructed and used during the past year since the polyethylene sheeting showed no indication of weathering and none of the spruce boughs had fallen from their original location. Because of the obvious presence of beavers as indicated by the cut stumps and personal observation in the nearby pond, it is likely to assume that this lean-to was used as an overnight shelter by an individual who was pursuing beaver.

Present Condition and Use: The lean-to is in good condition and could easily be reused in its present state. It was probably used as an overnight shelter.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 16 (10-12)

FIELD SURVEY #12

Location: Fig. 50:12; Fig. 51:12

Description: A possible work area was found on the right bank of American Creek in the bend of the stream about 1-1/2 miles from the mouth. A sawhorse was found in the vicinity as were many cut logs and stumps, several of which have been axed. Material items included a five-gallon can, a two-pound size can, a Rogers Golden Syrup can (also marked B. C. Sugar Refinery, Vancouver, B. C.), and a pair of military style white felt shoes. Nearby was found a horizontally-placed board which was nailed to two vertical posts. In the same area was also found a log which had been placed at an angle and nailed to a tree stump. The log had apparently decayed and fallen to the ground. At the end of this 4-foot long log on the ground were several logs all about 3 feet long and also on the ground. The entire area is wet and boggy.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

FIELD SURVEY #15

Location: Fig. 50:15; Fig. 51:15

Description: This area is located about 3-1/2 miles from the mouth of American Creek on the right bank of the stream. The entire area shows signs of trees being cut both by humans and beavers. The forest consists primarily of spruce trees. A few rusted cans are the only material items which were observed in the area.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: This area was obviously used as a timber cutting area although it is difficult to assign any particular time period or cultural group to the area.

Present Condition and Use: The locality does not appear to be used at present and has not been disturbed by any activity other than the timber cutting.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #16

Location: Fig. 50:16; Fig. 51:16

Description: An abandoned road was found which extended from this point near American Creek along the ridge toward the site of Field Survey #13. The road showed ruts produced by a four-wheeled vehicle or sled. Near this area were found some rusted cans and a bench-like structure of logs in which were found wire nails. The location of this road is shown on a U.S.G.S. map of 1956 (scale 1:63,360).

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: It seems likely that this road once served as a wood hauling road since it traverses an area where there are considerable signs of wood cutting.

Present Condition and Use: The area does not appear to be used at present although it is possible that the road might be traversed in winter by local residents.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #17

Location: Fig. 50:17; Fig. 51:17

Description: A cabin was located between the Taylor Highway and American Creek about 2-3/4 miles upriver from the mouth of the stream. The cabin which is made of unpeeled cottonwood and spruce logs measures roughly 9-1/2 feet by 11 feet with a height of about 5-1/2 feet at the gable. The door faces to the northwest. The sod roof is partially collapsed and polyethylene sheeting was observed on the roof and in places around the cabin. An elevated platform cache was located near the cabin and was constructed of tongue-and-groove siding. An aluminum tag on which was printed "Robert Stacy 17790 P.A." was found on the door frame. Material items found in the area of this site included an aerosol can, five-gallon cans, two Yukon stoves, a twenty-five gallon can for aviation fuel, magazines such as "True" from 1970 and "National Geographic" from 1972, and a trap. Additionally, there were found a sawhorse and saw and stacked wood near the cabin. The site is located within a mixed cottonwood and spruce forest.

Cultural Affiliation: Athapaskan Indian

Interpretation: This cabin, cache, and work area represent the native allotment of a native resident in Eagle Village as determined from the aluminum tag marking the site.

Present Condition and Use: This cabin is in very good condition and could be occupied at any time. Its present use is uncertain as it was not occupied at the time of our survey but may be occupied at other times.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 16 (15-17)

FIELD SURVEY #18

Location: Fig. 50:18; Fig. 51:18

Description: This locality consists of an area within a birch forest that has been used for the stripping of birch bark from the trees. It is located along an abandoned road that parallels the Taylor Highway about 2 miles from the City of Eagle. Bark was not stripped recently from the trees and one tree exhibited a 6-foot wide stripped portion on the tree.

Cultural Affiliation: Athapaskan Indian

Interpretation: Birch bark was traditionally stripped from trees by Athapaskan Indians throughout the north. This practice continues to this day as birch bark is collected for the manufacture of such items as baskets, trays, cradles, and a variety of containers.

Present Condition and Use: This area does not appear to be used at present for the collecting of birch bark.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #19

Location: Fig. 50:19; Fig. 51:19

Description: A narrow cleared area which has been overgrown with moss and hummocks extends for about 1/2 mile in this area. Cut tree stumps were observed to the west of this linear clearing.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: This may be the remains of a road cut which was once made in this vicinity although this is uncertain.

Present Condition and Use: This locality does not appear to be used at present and is impassable in summer with a motor vehicle except for an all-terrain vehicle.

Photo: None

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

☒ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☒ Historical

1. Site number

2. Type of site

Cabin remains

3. State

Alaska

County

District

Fortymile

Resource Area

4. Map reference

Eagle Quad

5. Location

The site is located about 200 yards northwest of Building 14 of Fort Egbert to the north of a road that extends between that building and the Taylor Highway.

Section	Township	Range	Meridian
36	T 1 South	R 32 East	Fairbanks

6. Land ownership status

Bureau of Land Management

7. Other site designations Field Survey #20
in Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978 (see
below)

8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use

Unknown, probably early 20th century

9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance

This site is marked by the wall remains of a cabin which measured about 11 feet (north/south axis) by 13 feet. A doorway was observed on the west wall and the north wall of the cabin revealed that this area of the building site had been dug into a naturally-occurring slope. The remaining logs of the walls indicated that the logs had been axe-planed on the interior and corner notching also axe cut. Several holes were observed on the interior side of the logs where dowels were once placed to serve as hooks. One dowel was still in place. To the west a shallow depression indicated that some addition was present and extended about 10 feet from the edge of the west wall. Another feature extended from the north wall 6-1/2 feet and measured nearly 6-1/2 feet in width. The sides of this were lined with thin wood. In the vicinity of the cabin were found the remains of a fence which revealed that wire nails were used in its construction, several rusted cans, a bottle on which the seam extended (continued on attached sheet)

10. Area of occupation

about 200 feet by 200 feet

11. Present condition

Most of the walls of the cabin are
intact although no roof remains.12. Photo numbers 1977 Field Survey:
Roll 16 (18-20), Roll 17 (1)

13. Informants and references

Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978. Fort Egbert and the Eagle Historic District: Results of Archeological and Historic Research, Summer 1977. Report to BLM.

4. Recorded by

Elizabeth Andrews, Gary Selinger,
and Melinda Evans

Date

June 1977

(continued on reverse)

Continuation sheet for Field Survey #20 Item 9

up the neck but not all the way to the rim, and a wooden crate which was marked "Portland May COMS' FT EGBERT."

About 35 feet from the north limit of the cabin remains was a wood-lined pit which measured 5 feet 3 inches by 5 feet 7 inches and was nearly 3 feet deep. A piece of clear pane window glass was found nearby.

About 90 feet to the north of the cabin was a wooden barrel which had been placed vertically in the ground. Only the top 3 inches of the barrel extended above the ground surface. Thirty feet from the barrel was another pit which measured 1-1/2 feet by 2 feet 3 inches and was 9 inches deep. Another 30 feet distant was another wood-lined pit which measured about 3 feet square and 2 feet 4 inches deep. Rusted cans and the remains of wooden boxes were observed throughout the area.

The entire site is located within a mixed spruce and birch forest.

The period of occupation of this cabin is unknown although it was probably occupied during and shortly after the abandonment of Fort Egbert. At the time that the fort was established the military was authorized by the Quartermaster General to purchase all cabins which were located on the military reservation. If this cabin was built prior to that time, it is possible that the military used the cabin for some unknown purpose. However, the cabin may have been built after the fort was abandoned and the occupant gathered remains from the fort such as the crate which was addressed to the Commissary at Fort Egbert. The function of any of the associated pits is uncertain but similar pits were observed throughout the survey on the core area of the fort.

15. Sketch and/or remarks

☐ wood-lined pit

N ↗

☐ pit

○ barrel

☐ wood-lined pit

cabin
remains

Building 24 →

← Taylor Highway Building 14 →

EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No This should be determined by a recreation technician.

17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

Archeological test excavations should be undertaken to determine the significance, if any, of the site before any judgment be made regarding preservation and/or development.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

GPO 840-241

FIELD SURVEY #21

Location: Fig. 50:21; Fig. 51:21

Description: A road was found about 200 yards west of Building 24 and extended to the north for a distance of about 1/8 mile beginning in the area east of the cabin remains described for Field Survey #20. The road is located along a natural and low ridge just west of the core area of the fort within a spruce, birch, and aspen forest.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: It is difficult to ascertain the activities which this road was once associated with. It may have served as a "driveway" type avenue between the cabin remains described earlier and another but major road on the grounds. More simply it may have functioned as a short cut between the road described as Field Survey #22 and the core area of the fort.

Present Condition and Use: This road does not show signs of current use by vehicular traffic although it is used by people taking walks in the area.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #22

Location: Fig. 50:22; Fig. 51:22

Description: A road was found which extended between the core area of the fort about 200 yards west of Building 24 site and a trail southwest of this point about 300 feet. The road actually extends about 500 yards through a birch and spruce forest toward the top of a ridge which separates the core area of the fort from American Creek. The road is very distinct near the junction with the core area but is less visible closer to its intersection with the trail due to the more extensive growth of brush vegetation.

Cultural Affiliation: U. S. Military, early twentieth century

Interpretation: This road is marked on one of the original maps of Fort Egbert which was compiled in 1907-1908 (Hill 1908). It is unclear what the exact function of the road was since it connects with a trail which in turn links with another road. Perhaps the road was previously a trail between the core area and a road which is described as Field Survey #23 but had not been completely widened to a road at the time of the drafting of the military map.

Present Condition and Use: The road is partially overgrown on its western extent and does not appear to be used in the summer although it may be used in the winter by persons traveling by snow machine, dog team, or on foot.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #23

Location: Fig. 50:23; Fig. 51:23

Description: Along the south limit of the BLM campground an abandoned road was found which extended from near a formerly-used well at the campground to the southeast. The well had been filled with cement. This road extended south along the highest part of a ridge between the core area of the fort and American Creek and traversed a mixed spruce and birch forest for a distance of about 1500 yards where it intersects the Taylor Highway.

Cultural Affiliation: Probably U. S. Military, early twentieth century

Interpretation: This road opening appears to mark the road which once extended between the main road between the core area of the fort and American Creek and the "Alaska Road Commission Road to the Forty Mile River" as shown on a 1908 map (Hill 1908). The northern-most part of this road either coincides with the current BLM campground

road or has been obliterated by it. This apparently was a significant thoroughfare which extended along the top of a ridge which separated the core area from American Creek and could link with other roads which went to the Wireless Station further south and the cemetery, target range, and water tank house to the north.

Present Condition and Use: The road is partially overgrown and impassable except on foot in the summer. The road can be easily traveled in the winter, however, by snow machine or dog sled.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #24

Location: Fig. 50:24; Fig. 51:24

Description: An apparent road between a major road on the military reservation and described as Field Survey #23 and another road described as Field Survey #22 was observed at this point. The road was not visible the entire length and showed recent signs of trees being cut while many of the trees were marked with red, blue, or yellow flagging tape. The road was only distinct for about 50 feet from this intersection and then appeared more like a trail. The road extends to the southeast from this point through a spruce and birch forest.

Cultural Affiliation: Probably U. S. Military, early twentieth century

Interpretation: This road is shown as a trail on a military map of Fort Egbert compiled in 1907-1908. The trail linked a lengthy thoroughfare of the reservation which ran north/south with another road which ran northeast/southwest between the core area of the fort and a ridge between it and American Creek. It is possible that the apparent road was not distinct the entire route because it was in fact used as a trail and recent tree cutting on its western extent has given it the appearance of a former road at that point.

Present Condition and Use: The road/trail is overgrown and impassable except on foot in the summer. The road can be easily traveled in the winter, however, by snow machine or dog sled.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #25

Location: Fig. 50:25; Fig. 51:25

Description: A trail was found which extended between a point 100 yards west of the Taylor Highway (west of the northwest corner of the school reserve) and an intersection of a road described earlier as Field Survey #22 and a trail which linked that road with the road described as Field Survey #23. This trail also had a spur to the southwest which began about 250 yards from the Taylor Highway for most of its distance until it intersected the highway roughly opposite a road to the Wireless Station. The moderately sloping terrain consists of a mixed spruce and birch forest.

Cultural Affiliation: Probably U. S. Military, early twentieth century

Interpretation: This trail is clearly marked on a map of the military reservation compiled in 1907-1908 (Hill 1908). Its specific use, however, is not noted.

Present Condition and Use: This trail can be used by persons traveling on foot or two-wheeled vehicle in the summer or in the winter with snow machine or dog team.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #26

Location: Fig. 50:26; Fig. 51:26

Description: A trail was located which extended between the route of the water line near the cemetery and a road described as Field Survey #22 about 400 yards west of Building 14. This trail follows a natural contour of the ridge roughly in a north-west/southeast direction and parallels another trail described earlier as Field Survey #24. The trail traverses a terrain of mixed spruce and birch.

Cultural Affiliation: Probably U. S. Military, early twentieth century

Interpretation: This trail is marked on a map of the military reservation of Fort Egbert which was compiled in 1907-1908 (Hill 1908). Its specific use, however, is not noted although it probably served as a route for travel by sled or on foot.

Present Condition and Use: This trail can be used by persons traveling on foot or two-wheeled vehicle in the summer or with snow machine or dog team in winter.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #27

Location: Fig. 50:27; Fig. 51:27

Description: A timber cutting area was found about 1/8 mile southeast of the BLM campground about 150 feet west of an abandoned road. The tree stumps were found in a mixed spruce and birch forest. Within the area a 5 foot deep pit was found which measured about 11 feet by 14 feet. No material items or structural remains were found in the vicinity.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: The area has been obviously used for the cutting of timber although it is difficult to determine what time period this may have occurred. The large pit may correspond to the site of a cabin although surface indications do not confirm this.

Present Condition and Use: The area does not appear to have been disturbed since its use for timber cutting.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #28

Location: Fig. 50:28; Fig. 51:28

Description: This locality is characterized by the presence of numerous tree stumps which indicate that the trees had been felled with the use of an axe. A pile of birch and spruce logs which had been sawed was observed and moss was growing on these logs. A sawhorse was found which had been constructed of 2 inch by 4 inch milled lumber with narrow diameter timbers used for horizontal braces. The area appears much like a meadow with the exception of the presence of the cut stumps with tall grasses and labrador tea dominating the area.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: Although this locality is located about 150 feet west of a major but now abandoned road of Fort Egbert, it is difficult to determine if the timber cutting activities of this area were associated with the occupation of the fort.

Present Condition and Use: This meadow-like area does not appear to have been further disturbed since its use for timber cutting.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #29

Location: Fig. 50:29; Fig. 51:29

Description: A relatively wide trail was found which connected two roads previously described as Field Survey #22 and #23. This trail extended between the roads for a distance of about 225 yards and followed a natural contour of the sloping ridge. Some spruce, birch, and aspen trees have recently been cut in this area.

Cultural Affiliation: U. S. Military, early twentieth century

Interpretation: This trail was included on a map of the military reservation of Fort Egbert compiled in 1907-1908 (Hill 1908). No specific use was noted, however, the trail clearly links two north/south trending roads.

Present Condition and Use: The trail has apparently been used in the recent past as an access route to a timber cutting area.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #30

Location: Fig. 50:30; Fig. 51:30

Description: Near the intersection of a trail and an abandoned road were found signs of past activity. A pile of rusted cans was observed which included many hole-in-top cans and an earlier style of Schlitz Beer can which displayed a bottle neck and spout. A birch tree which had been stripped for its bark was also observed in the area.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown and Athapaskan Indian

Interpretation: This area was used for depositing some trash which included cans although there is no sign of a habitation or campsite nearby. Birch trees were traditionally and are presently stripped by native persons in the area for their

bark in order to manufacture a variety of material items such as baskets, trays, cradles, and other containers.

Present Condition and Use: The site is not disturbed and does not serve any particular use at present.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #31

Location: Fig. 50:31; Fig. 51:31

Description: This locality consists of an area within an open birch, aspen, spruce forest that has been used for the stripping of birch bark from the trees. It does not appear to be very recent since new bark has begun to grow where the old bark was once stripped. Trees have been stripped from a rather large area, compared to other bark stripping localities, roughly 250 yards by 75 yards.

Cultural Affiliation: Athapaskan Indian

Interpretation: Birch bark was traditionally stripped from trees by Athapaskan Indians throughout the north. This practice continues to this day by local Han Athapaskan Indians as birch bark is collected for the manufacture of such items as baskets, trays, cradles, and a variety of containers which are used as well as sold. The relatively large size of this collecting area may be due to its easy accessibility to the nearby Taylor Highway.

Present Condition and Use: The area does not appear to be used at present for the collecting of birch bark.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 17 (2, 3)

FIELD SURVEY #32

Location: Fig. 50:32; Fig. 51:32

Description: This locality is situated on the west slope of a ridge between the city of Eagle and American Creek in a mixed spruce and birch forest. The site is about 75 yards from an abandoned road described earlier as Field Survey #23. The area is characterized by numerous cut spruce tree stumps several of which were cut about 3-1/2 feet above the ground surface. Three spruce trees displayed the cut end situated on the stump. These small trees only about 3 inches in diameter had been notched near the cut end where the tree rested on the stump. The trees had not been delimbed.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: None

Present Condition and Use: The area does not appear to be used at present and remains otherwise undisturbed.

Photo: None

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

☒ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☒ Historical

1. Site number		2. Type of site House pit	
3. State Alaska	County	District Fortymile Resource Area	4. Map reference Eagle Quad

5. Location

This site is located about 1-1/2 miles from the City of Eagle on the west limit of the Taylor Highway. It is about 200 yards southwest of the intersection of the Taylor Highway and the road to the abandoned Wireless Station. An abandoned dirt road passes along the north limit of the site.

Section 1	Township T 2 South	Range R 32 East	Meridian Fairbanks
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6. Land ownership status ?	7. Other site designations 1977 Field Survey #33 in Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978 (see below)
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8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use
unknown

9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance

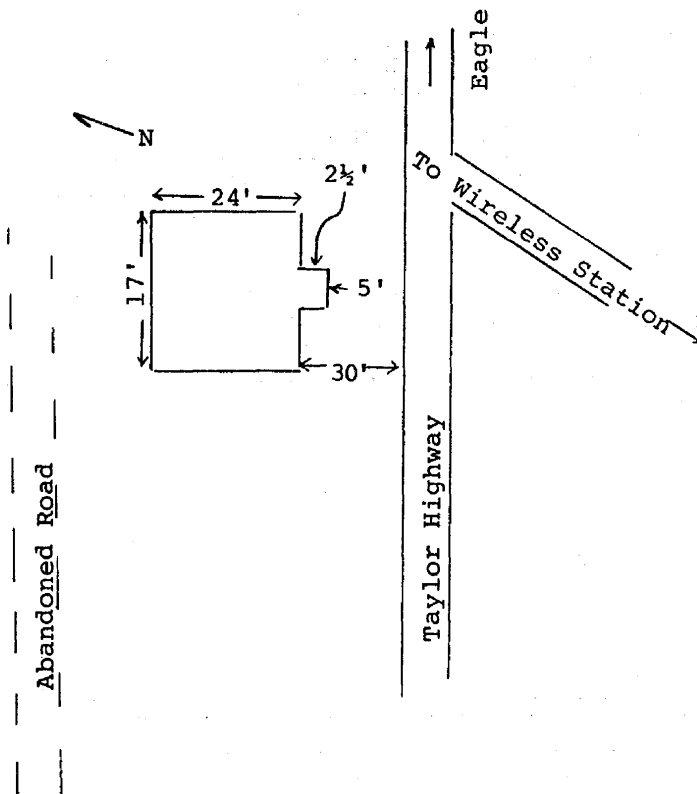
This is an apparent house or cabin pit which measures roughly 17 feet (east/west axis) by 24 feet (north/south axis) with an addition on the south wall which measures about 5 feet by 2-1/2 feet. No structural debris or material items were found near the site nor in the depression and no test excavations were undertaken. The house pit lies between an abandoned road and the current Taylor Highway and is within 50 feet of the west limit of the latter. It is difficult to ascertain the importance of this feature since no testing was done and no references have been found pertaining to this locality.

10. Area of occupation About 30 feet by 50 feet	11. Present condition This site is overgrown with tall grass and appears to have been disturbed by the apparent removal of the super-structure of the building.
12. Photo numbers	
13. Informants and references Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978. Fort Egbert and the Eagle Historic District: Results of Archeological and Historic Research, Summer 1977. Report to BLM.	

4. Recorded by Elizabeth Andrews, Gary Selinger, and Melinda Evans	Date June 1977
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(continued on reverse)

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☒ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

The site should be test excavated to determine the archeological/historical significance, if any, of the site before any judgment be made as to the value of preservation and/or development.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

FIELD SURVEY #34

Location: Fig. 50:34; Fig. 51:34

Description: This locality consists of an area within an open birch, aspen, and willow forest that has been used for the stripping of birch bark from trees. It does not appear to be recent activity because of the way in which the trees show regrowth in the stripped portions. Nine such trees were observed.

Cultural Affiliation: Athapaskan Indian

Interpretation: Birch bark was traditionally stripped from trees by Athapaskan Indians throughout the north. This practice continues to this day by local Han Athapaskan Indians as birch bark is collected for the manufacture of such items as baskets, trays, cradles, and a variety of containers which are used as well as sold.

Present Condition and Use: This area does not appear to be used at present for the collecting of bark.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #35

Location: Fig. 50:35; Fig. 51:35

Description: A cleared area was found at the end of a trail from a road described as Field Survey #23, located in a large spruce and birch forest. The site is on a west slope facing American Creek about 100 yards from the creek. A sloping area of about 150 feet wide and 1/8 mile long had been cleared of trees which had been cut with an axe. No structural remains of camping or habitation area was found although a rope was observed tied to one of the stumps as well as rusted cans and a piece of stove pipe.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: This site may have served simply as a tree cutting area for timber, however, the relatively large area that was cleared and the resultant excellent view of the American Creek valley appear to indicate the use of the area as a lookout or campsite. The presence of a stove pipe would also seem to indicate this although no signs of a shelter or camping area could be found.

Present Condition and Use: The site does not appear to be used at present and remains otherwise undisturbed.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 17 (4)

FIELD SURVEY #36

Location: Fig. 50:36; Fig. 51:36

Description: A lean-to/campsite was found 700 feet west of the Taylor Highway and about 1/4 mile south of a large gravel pit. The site is located in a scrub spruce forest off to the side of a road which extends between the Taylor Highway and the top of a higher ridge. The lean-to measured a little more than 6 feet wide and was about 5 feet high. The structure was made of spruce and birch timbers with no covering.

In the immediate area of the lean-to were found rusted cans, a piece of stove pipe, and a Sanka Coffee can with a plastic lid. Nearby were observed rotten 2 inch by 4 inch and 2 inch by 6 inch boards with wire nails. Moss was growing on the boards.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: This temporary shelter appears to have been constructed and used during the past few years although other items such as the stove pipe, rusted cans, and rotten boards nearby seem to point to this area being used previously and not just for overnight shelter.

Present Condition and Use: The lean-to could probably be reused if a covering of some sort were put over the timbers.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 17 (5, 6)

FIELD SURVEY #37

Location: Fig. 50:37; Fig. 51:37

Description: This locality consists of an area within an open birch forest that has been used for the stripping of birch bark from trees. Over eight such trees were observed about 200 feet north of the road to the abandoned Wireless Station near its junction with the Taylor Highway.

Cultural Affiliation: Athapaskan Indian.

Interpretation: Birch bark was traditionally stripped from trees by Athapaskan Indians throughout the north. This practice continues to this day by local Han Athapaskan Indians as birch bark is collected for the manufacture of such items as baskets, trays, cradles, and a variety of containers which are used as well as sold.

Present Condition and Use: This area has not been otherwise disturbed and will probably continue to be used for collecting birch bark in future years.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #38

Location: Fig. 50:38; Fig. 51:38

Description: A lean-to/campsite was found in a predominantly spruce forest on the east slope of a ridge about 200 yards east of the Taylor Highway. The lean-to was constructed between three large spruce trees and measured about 6 feet wide and nearly 6 feet high extending about 5 feet from the base of the trees. Several small spruce logs

which had been cut with an axe and formed the frame for the structure. Over the small logs were placed polyethylene sheeting and moss. Two trails were found about 50 feet south of the camping area.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: This temporary shelter appears to have been constructed and used during the previous season since the polyethylene sheeting showed no indication of weathering and none of the moss had fallen from its original location. The lean-to was probably used by an individual for overnight shelter.

Present Condition and Use: The lean-to is in good condition and could be easily reused in its present state. It is probably intended to serve as an overnight shelter.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 17 (7)

FIELD SURVEY #39

Location: Fig. 50:39; Fig. 51:39

Description: A cleared area and a road were found south of the Taylor Highway about 1/4 mile from a gravel pit. The road showed signs of having been bulldozed and to have been used recently.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: This area was probably cleared as a route to some property where a private residence will be built.

Present Condition and Use: The road can only be used for travel with a tracked vehicle in its present state.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #40

Location: Fig. 50:40; Fig. 51:40

Description: An unidentified activity area was found about 1000 feet south of a gravel pit and south of the Taylor Highway. A spruce log was lashed across three spruce trees with black electrical wire. The wire which had rubber insulation had been lashed to the trees before they had reached mature growth since the trees had grown around the wire. This site is located in a scrub spruce forest along the old telegraph line route.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: None

Present Condition and Use: The area is not disturbed and does not appear to be used at present.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 17 (8, 9)

FIELD SURVEY #41

Location: Fig. 50:41; Fig. 51:41

Description: A shallow depression which measured about 15 feet square was found in an area of land within a "Y" produced by the intersection of the Taylor Highway and the road to the abandoned Wireless Station. No structural debris or material items were found near the site.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: None

Present Condition and Use: The area does not appear to be used although it may be impacted if the highway is widened. The site is overgrown with small brush and grass.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #42

Location: Fig. 50:42; Fig. 51:42

Description: This locality consists of an area within an open birch forest that has been used for the stripping of birch bark from trees. Several such stripped trees were observed south of the Taylor Highway and west of the road to the abandoned Wireless Station about 300 feet from the intersection of the two roads.

Cultural Affiliation: Athapaskan Indian

Interpretation: Birch bark was traditionally stripped from trees by Athapaskan Indians throughout the north. This practice continues to this day by local Han Athapaskan Indians as birch bark is collected for the manufacture of such items as baskets, trays, cradles, and a variety of containers which are used as well as sold.

Present Condition and Use: This area has not been otherwise disturbed and will probably continue to be used for collecting birch bark in future years.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #43

Location: Fig. 50:43; Fig. 51:43

Description: Located south of the Taylor Highway and west of a road to the abandoned Wireless Station about 350 feet from the intersection of the two was found an area where twelve birch logs that had been axed, sawed, and stacked. No other signs of activity were found in the area.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: None

Present Condition and Use: This locality does not appear to be disturbed except for the limited tree cutting noted above.

Photo: None

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT☐ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☒ Historical

ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

1. Site number		2. Type of site Dump	
3. State Alaska	County	District Fortymile Resource Area	4. Map reference Eagle Quad.

5. Location

This dumping area is located on the west side of the road to the abandoned Wireless Station about 450 yards from its intersection with the Taylor Highway. It is located over a fairly steep bank at a bend in the road.

Section 1	Township T 2 South	Range R 32 East	Meridian Fairbanks
6. Land ownership status ?		7. Other site designations Field Survey #44 in Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978 (see below)	

8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use
U.S. Military and Signal Corps ca. 1905-1920

9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance

This dumping area is located on a steep slope off to the side of a road to the abandoned Wireless Station. The dump is located within a mixed aspen, spruce forest and a tall grass area. It is also along the route of the abandoned telegraph line although no telegraph posts or line were found. Material items observed at the dump included numerous wooden boxes, hole-in-top cans, many five-gallon cans, and Log Cabin Syrup cans. A more detailed inventory of items in the dump could provide a picture of the activities of the people operating the Wireless Station as well as the type of goods shipped to this area for military use in the early twentieth century.

10. Area of occupation ca. 100 feet by 100 feet	11. Present condition Items deposited in the dump have been subject to the natural processes of decay due to exposure to the weather. It is difficult to ascertain if any "treasure hunting" has taken place at the dump.
12. Photo numbers 1977 Field Survey: Roll 17 (10)	

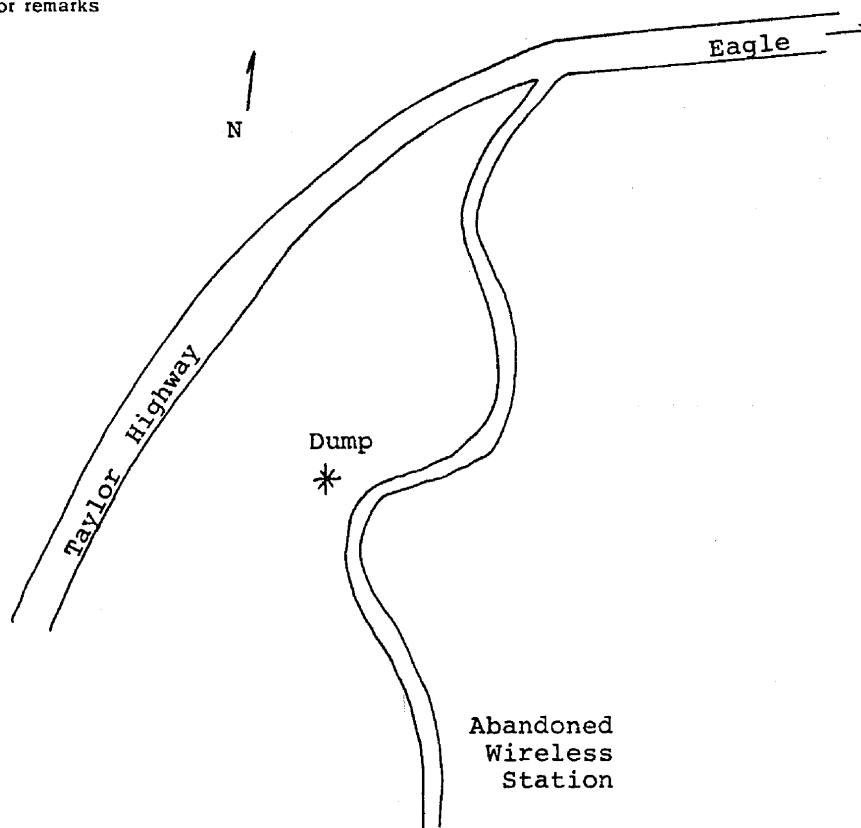
13. Informants and references

Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978. Fort Egbert and the Eagle Historic District: Results of Archeological and Historic Research; Summer 1977. Report to BLM.

4. Recorded by Elizabeth Andrews, Karen Morehouse, and Melinda Evans	Date June 1977
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(continued on reverse)

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☒ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

The site should be inventoried and test excavated to ascertain its archeological/historical significance before any judgment be made regarding preservation and/or development.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

GPO 840-241

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT☐ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☒ Historical

ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

3. State Alaska	County	District Fortymile Resource Area	4. Map reference Eagle Quad.
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5. Location

This dumping area is located on the east side of the road to the abandoned Wireless Station about 450 yards from its intersection with the Taylor Highway. It is located over a fairly steep bank at a bend in the road.

Section 1	Township T 2 South	Range R 32 East	Meridian Fairbanks
6. Land ownership status ?		7. Other site designations Field Survey #45 in Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978 (see below)	

8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use

U.S. Military and Signal Corps ca. 1905-1920

9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance

This dumping area is located on a steep bank off to the side of a road to the abandoned Wireless Station. The dump is located within a mixed aspen, spruce, and birch forest. It is also along the route of the abandoned telegraph line although no telegraph posts or line were found. Material items observed at the dump included numerous wooden boxes and five gallon cans, hole-in-top cans, glass jars, metal plates, two-pound-size roast beef cans, and stove pipe. Near this dump area was also observed a shallow depression which measured about 24 feet by 10 feet and several birch trees which have been stripped for their bark.

A more detailed inventory of items in the dump could provide a picture of activities of the people associated with the Wireless Station as well as the type of goods shipped to this area for military use in the early twentieth century. The nearby depression may be associated with the same activities. The peeled birch trees reveal past and current use of the area by local Han Athapaskan Indians.

10. Area of occupation ca. 100 feet by 100 feet	11. Present condition Items deposited in the dump have been subject to the natural processes of decay due to exposure to the weather. It is difficult to ascertain if any "treasure hunting" has taken place at the dump.
12. Photo numbers 1977 Field Survey: Roll 17 (11)	

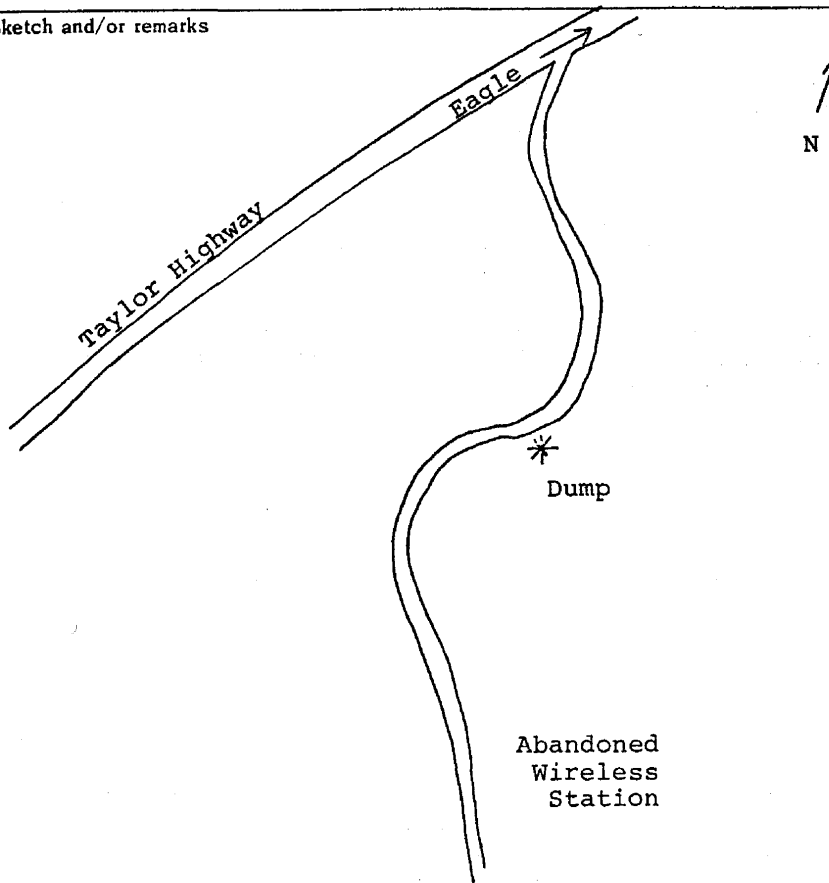
13. Informants and references

Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978. Fort Egbert and the Eagle Historic District: Results of Archeological and Historic Research, Summer 1977. Report to BLM.

4. Recorded by Elizabeth Andrews, Karen Morehouse, and Melinda Evans	Date June 1977
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(continued on reverse)

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☒ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No
17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

The site should be inventoried and test excavated to ascertain its archeological/historical significance before any judgment be made regarding preservation and/or development.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

GPO 840-241

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

☐ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☒ Historical

1. Site number		2. Type of site Dump	
3. State Alaska	County	District Fortymile Resource Area	4. Map reference Eagle Quad.

5. Location

This dumping area is located on the west side of the road to the abandoned Wireless Station about 300 feet west of the station. It is located over fairly steep bank.

Section 1	Township T 2 South	Range R 32 East	Meridian Fairbanks
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6. Land ownership status
?

7. Other site designations Field Survey #46 in Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978 (see below)

8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use
U. S. Military and Signal Corps ca. 1905-1920

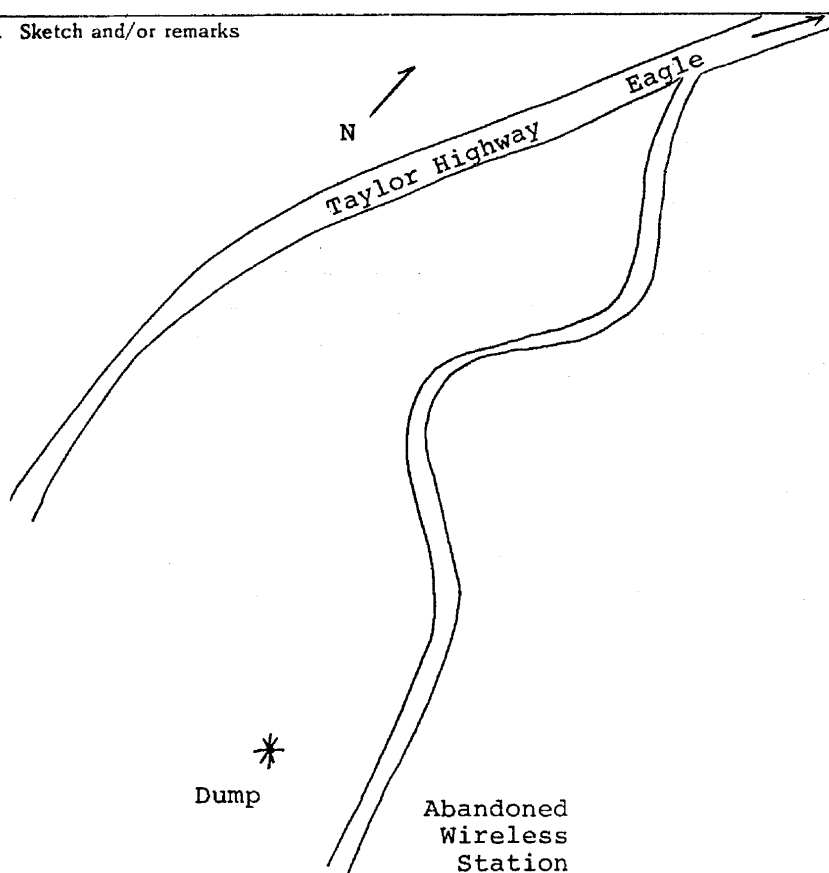
9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance

This dump is located on a steep bank off to the side of a road to the abandoned Wireless Station. The dump is located within a mixed aspen, spruce, and birch forest. Material items observed at the site included bricks, cans, bottles, lead pipe, wooden boxes, battery terminals, kerosene cans, pots, pans, stove pipe, a Union Leader Cut Plug Smoke and Chew Tobacco can, and a five-gallon can for Zerolene--Zero Cold Test. A more detailed inventory of items in the dump could provide a picture of activities of the people associated with the Wireless Station as well as the type of goods shipped to this area for military use in the early twentieth century.

10. Area of occupation ca. 100 feet by 100 feet	11. Present condition Items deposited in the dump have been subject to the natural processes of decay due to exposure to the weather. It is difficult to ascertain if any "treasure hunting" has taken place at the dump.
12. Photo numbers	
13. Informants and references Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978. Fort Egbert and the Eagle Historic District: Results of Archeological and Historic Research, Summer 1977. Report to BLM.	
4. Recorded by Elizabeth Andrews, Karen Morehouse, and Melinda Evans	Date June 1977

(continued on reverse)

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☒ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No
17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

This site should be inventoried and test excavated to ascertain its archeological/historical significance before any judgment be made regarding preservation and/or development.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

FIELD SURVEY #47

Location: Fig. 50:47; Fig. 51:47

Description: About one-third way up a slope between the Taylor Highway and the abandoned Wireless Station was found a stack of spruce logs which had been sawed all the same length. Most of the logs were in a very decayed state. No material items or other signs of activity were found in the area.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: None

Present Condition and Use: The area does not appear to be used at present and the stacked wood is rotten.

Photo: None

Form 6230-2
(June 1968)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

☐ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☒ Historical

1. Site number		2. Type of site Probable cache and habitation	
3. State Alaska	County	District Fortymile Resource Area	4. Map reference Eagle Quad.
5. Location The site is located on the west side of a road between the Taylor Highway and the abandoned Wireless Station. It is situated about 100 feet from the western limit of the Wireless Station remains.			
Section 1	Township T 2 South	Range R 32 East	Meridian Fairbanks
6. Land ownership status ?		7. Other site designations Field Survey #48 in Shinkwin, A.D. et al. 1978 (see below)	
8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use U.S. Military and Signal Corps ca. 1905-1920			
9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance The site is located on a fairly level piece of ground on the west side of a road to the abandoned Wireless Station and about 100 feet from the station itself. About 5 feet from the road was found a pit about 3 feet deep with dimensions of about 6 feet by 4 feet. This pit had a wood lining, that is, the walls were faced with wood planks. No other structural debris or material items were found near this pit. In the same area was a shallow depression which outlined where a structure once stood. The west wall of this depression had a slight mound of dirt placed against it. The outline revealed that the structure measured about 55-1/2 feet by 14 feet. About the area were observed a bedpost, a pipe, cement pilings, and unidentified flat metal pieces. Another feature appeared to be two depressions which came together to form a rectangular feature about 18 feet by 4 feet. Trash was present (continued on attached sheet)			
10. Area of occupation ca. 200 feet by 200 feet		11. Present condition The site has been over- grown and several features appear to have been disturbed by the apparent removal of the buildings from the site.	
12. Photo numbers 1977 Field Survey: Roll 17 (17)			
13. Informants and references Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978. Fort Egbert and the Eagle Historic District: Results of Archeological and Historic Research, Summer 1977. Report to BLM.			
4. Recorded by Elizabeth Andrews, Gary Selinger, Melinda Evans, and Karen Morehouse			Date June 1977

(continued on reverse)

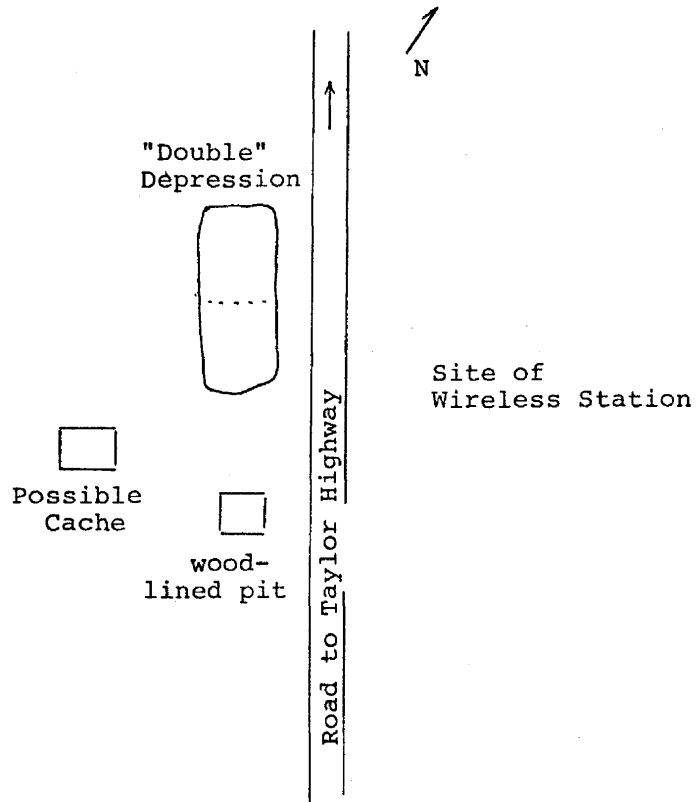
Continuation sheet for Field Survey #48 Item 9

in this area as well as down the slope and included cans, wire, electrical type equipment, glass tubes with a thin tin covering, and an item marked Wireless _____, Deposit #4, New York, Sat. July 21, 1908, Apparatus Co.

A possible cache was found further west of the road and measured about 7 feet square and 1-1/2 feet in height. The structure was constructed of logs which had been sawed and axed and moss was used for chinking. No material items were found in or near the remains.

It is difficult to determine the past use of this area although it was probably associated with activities at the Wireless Station or may have served as a temporary living quarters with associated out-buildings while the station was under construction.

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No This should be determined by a recreation technician.
17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

This site should be test excavated and the material items inventoried to determine the archeological/historical significance of the site before any judgment be made regarding preservation and/or development.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

☐ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☒ Historical

1. Site number

2. Type of site

Wireless Station

3. State
Alaska

County

District Fortymile
Resource Area4. Map reference
Eagle Quad.

5. Location

This site is located at the end of a road which extends about 800 yards from its intersection with the Taylor Highway about 1-1/2 miles from the City of Eagle.

Section 1	Township T 2 South	Range R 32 East	Meridian Fairbanks
6. Land ownership status ?		7. Other site designations Field Survey #49 in Shinkwin, A.D. et al. 1978 (see below); EAC 044 in AHRS system.	
8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use U.S. Military and Signal Corps ca. 1905-1920			

9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance

The site is located on moderately sloping terrain in a mixed spruce and birch forest. Below the site the terrain gets rather steep as the ridge descends from this point 800 feet in altitude. The site consists of two main areas--the site of the Wireless Tower and the site of the building which functioned to serve the operations of the station. Four concrete pads each measuring nearly 6 feet square and 10 inches thick mark the location of the four legs of the tower. About 10 feet from these pads was a depression about 11 feet by 18 feet although no structural or material debris was present. The building site for the station revealed a total length of 88 feet by 44 feet on the north end and 26 feet on the south end. The site was divided into three areas with the northern end about 32 feet by 44 feet separated from the middle by a steel beam. The central area, about 28 feet by 40 feet, had

(continued on attached sheet)

10. Area of occupation ca. 300 feet by 300 feet	11. Present condition The area has been disturbed by the apparent removal of the building and tower. Standing water occurs in one of the main areas of the station and few structural remains are present.
12. Photo numbers 1977 Field Survey: Roll 17 (19,20) and C.L. Andrews Collection, University of Oregon	
13. Informants and references Archives. Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978. Fort Egbert and the Eagle Historic District: Results of Archeological and Historic Research, Summer 1977. Report to BLM.	

4. Recorded by Elizabeth Andrews, Gary Selinger,
and Melinda Evans

Date

June 1977

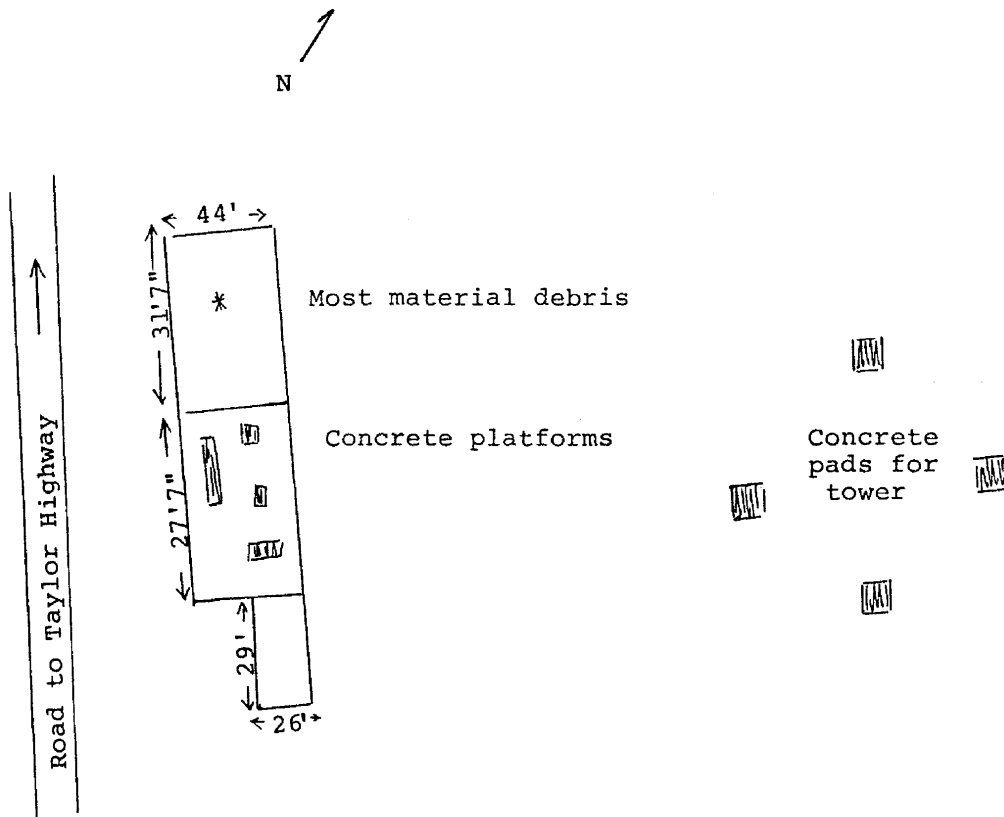
(continued on reverse)

four concrete pads ranging from 2 feet square to 8 feet by 10 feet and varying in thickness between about 1 foot and 4 feet. Pieces of unidentifiable large machinery were mounted on these bases. A large steel beam extended along the eastern limit of this area. Material items found in the area included a bed, a cooking stove, an "Army Range," kitchen sinks, utensils, a bathtub, wash basins, bottles, cans, engine equipment, and terra cota pipes.

Historical records indicate that in 1922 the Signal Corps communication building burned although our survey did not reveal any burned remains in the area. In 1927, the Wireless Tower was reportedly salvaged by the Alaska Consolidated Gold Corporation (Record Group 49, National Archives).

This site is important because of its significance in Alaska communications in the early twentieth century which in part justified the existence of Fort Egbert itself.

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No This should be determined by a recreation technician.
17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

This site should be test excavated to determine whether preservation and/or development is justified. Archival data are clear evidence of its historic importance.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

FIELD SURVEY #50

Location: Fig. 50:50; Fig. 51:50

Description: About 200 yards up a slope east of the Taylor Highway about 2 miles from the City of Eagle was found an area where logs had recently been axe cut and sawed. An east/west trending trail was found just south of the locality. No other remains or signs of activity were found.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: The locality is used simply for the cutting of timber probably to be used as firewood.

Present Condition and Use: The area has not been otherwise disturbed and has been recently used for cutting timber.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #51

Location: Fig. 50:51; Fig. 51:51

Description: An A-frame type structure was found about 300 feet east of the Taylor Highway about 2-1/2 miles from the City of Eagle. The structure is constructed from spruce timbers and brush, the frame being spruce covered with brush. Located within a spruce forest, the shelter measures 18 feet long and 7-1/2 feet in height with a span of 14 feet. In the northwest corner was a doorway. Within the structure was an unidentified item manufactured from birch logs which measured about 8 feet long and 3 feet wide and about 3 feet high. The only other remains found were a pile of cut logs which had been tied together with wire. These were found within the structure as well. On a tree was an aluminum tag which was marked "Danie David, F-177S4C, 40 acres, Northwestern Corner, 5-23-73." Nearby in a birch forest were found many trees which had been stripped for their bark.

Cultural Affiliation: Athapaskan Indian

Interpretation: This represents the native allotment site of a native resident of Eagle Village.

Present Condition and Use: The structure at this site is in good condition and probably serves as a summer shelter.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 18 (7, 8, 9)

FIELD SURVEY #52

Location: Fig. 50:52; Fig. 51:52

Description: This number does not actually mark a site, but a locality where the field investigators placed an archeological test pit to ascertain whether any prehistoric finds were present. The test excavation which measured about 1-1/2 feet square was placed near the highest point of this ridge east of American Creek. The locality was chosen for the outstanding view it afforded of the Yukon River valley between Eagle Bluff and Eagle Village. No prehistoric materials were recovered from this test.

Cultural Affiliation: None

Interpretation: None

Present Condition and Use: The area is undisturbed and is presently used as part of an individual's trapline.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #53

Location: Fig. 50:53; Fig. 51:53

Description: A lean-to/campsite area was found along a narrow trail which extended south along this ridge from the abandoned Wireless Station. It is

located about 500 yards from the site of the station. The lean-to measured about 5 feet in height and 9 feet wide with a 3-1/2 foot span. It was constructed of spruce logs with moss placed in between the logs. Within the lean-to the moss ground covering was matted down and a glass jar was found. Large spruce trees dominate the area and there were many which had been cut down.

An archeological test pit was placed in the ground to ascertain whether any prehistoric materials were present. This small test was limited by frozen ground just beneath the humus layer.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: This temporary shelter appears to have been constructed and used during the past season since the structure is intact and the matted moss within the structure was still matted down at the time of our survey. It was probably used as an overnight shelter by the individual whose trapline extends in this area. Trap sets were found nearby.

Present Condition and Use: The lean-to is in good condition and could easily be used in its present state. It was probably used as an overnight shelter.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 18 (12, 13)

FIELD SURVEY #54

Location: Fig. 50:54; Fig. 51:54

Description: Near the top of this 1000-foot high ridge in a mixed spruce, birch, and aspen forest was found a trap set although no trap was at the site. A birch log about 7 feet long was placed at an angle and tied to a spruce stump about 3 feet in height with wire. A notch had been made in the birch log above the point where it was lashed to

the stump. The set was located along a trail about 600 yards from the abandoned Wireless Station.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: It is difficult to determine which fur-bearing species was being sought at this site.

Present Condition and Use: The set was in good condition and could probably be reused in the coming seasons.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #55

Location: Fig. 51:55

Description: Atop the 2200-foot Eagle Bluff overlooking the the Yukon River north of the City of Eagle was found a bench mark, a sign for a survey marker and some double insulated wire. The rugged terrain displayed small aspen, grass, and moss. An archeological test pit was put in at this locality to determine if any prehistoric materials were present. This small test proved negative.

The two bench marks for Eagle Peak occurred about 25 feet apart and the sign for the survey marker was dated 1973. A weathered United States flag was staked at the most eastern peak of the bluff.

Cultural Affiliation: Bureau of Land Management,
Contemporary American

Interpretation: Much of the evidence for human activity on Eagle Peak points to an association with the BLM. Bench marks are standard markers used when surveying the land as is the sign. The double insulated wire is used in conjunction with the repeater station which is set up each summer for activities associated with the Bureau of Land Management Fire Guard Station in the City

of Eagle. The flag was staked atop the bluff in association with local July 4 races according to local accounts.

Present Condition and Use: The peak remains in a natural state and is used for connecting the repeater each summer as well as by people who like to hike up the bluff.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 19 (11)

FIELD SURVEY #56

Location: Fig. 51:56

Description: This number does not actually mark a site, but rather a locality where the field investigators placed an archeological test pit to ascertain whether any prehistoric materials were present. The small test pit was placed in the ground on the south slope of Eagle Peak. The locality was chosen since it seemed an unlikely place for human activities because of the extremely steep nature of the entire bluff, its difficult accessibility, but excellent view of the Yukon River and Mission Creek valleys. The test proved negative.

Cultural Affiliation: None

Interpretation: Although the archeological test excavation proved negative, the locality may have served as a vantage point but not worthy of conducting other activities at the locality.

Present Condition and Use: This area is undisturbed and is occasionally used by people who hike up to the peak.

Photo: None

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

1. Site number		2. Type of site Cabin remains	
3. State Alaska	County	District Fortymile Resource Area	4. Map reference Eagle Quad.
5. Location This site is located along the left limit of the Yukon River about 3/4 mile downstream from the mouth of Mission Creek. The site is situated in a predominantly small spruce forest although aspen and birch are present. To the immediate west of the site is a swampy area of grasses situated between two small hills at the base of Eagle Bluff.			
Section 30	Township T 1 South	Range R 33 East	Meridian Fairbanks
6. Land ownership status ?		7. Other site designations Field Survey #57 in Shinkwin, A.D. et al. 1978 (see below)	
8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use Unknown, probably early twentieth century			
9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance This area is marked by the presence of cabin remains and associated features. The remains of the cabin revealed that unpeeled logs were used for construction although the remaining walls stood only to a height of three or four logs. The cabin measured 13 feet (east/west axis) by almost 14 feet with a 3-foot wide doorway on the north wall. Within the outline of the cabin were a bed frame in the southwest corner and one in the southeast corner and a table in the northeast corner. All were constructed of milled lumber with wire nails. To the north and west of the cabin were the remains of five pits ranging in size from nearly 3 feet square to one which was nearly 12 feet by 15 feet. The two westernmost pits were filled with water. Between these two pits was found an unidentifiable object which consisted of a 55-gallon drum filled with segments of railway track and covered (continued on attached sheet)			
10. Area of occupation about 200 feet by 300 feet		11. Present condition The cabin remains are in a state of disrepair but the site does not appear to be disturbed.	
12. Photo numbers 1977 Field Survey: Roll 19 (13-17)			
13. Informants and references Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978. Fort Egbert and the Eagle Historic District: Results of Archeological and Historic Research, Summer 1977. Report to BLM.			
4. Recorded by Elizabeth Andrews, Gary Selinger, Karen Morehouse, and Melinda Evans			Date June 1977

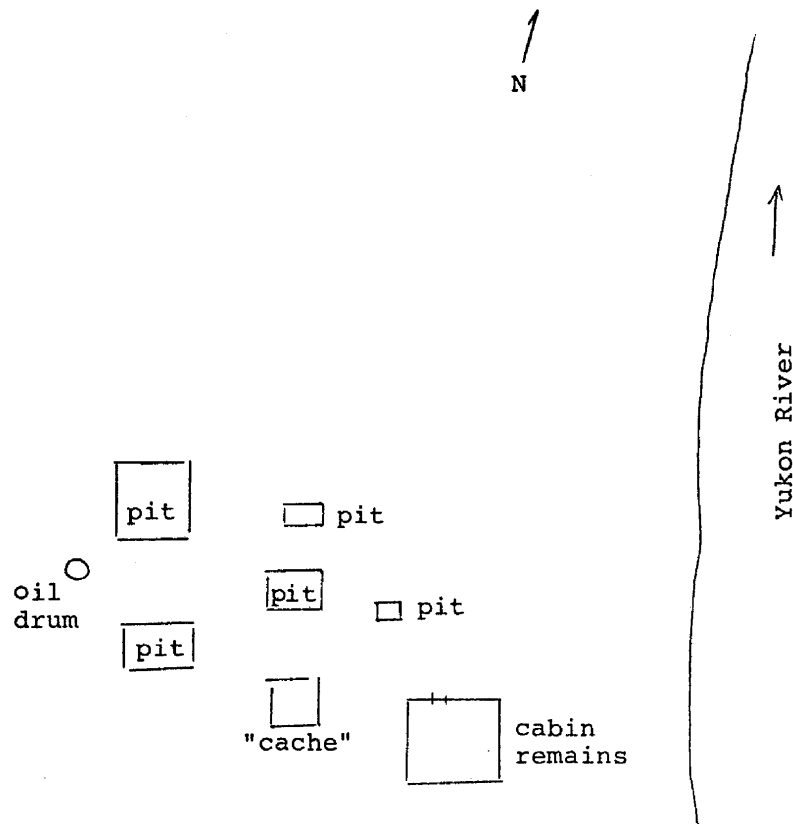
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Continuation sheet for Field Survey #57 Item 9

with screen. Material items in the area included a five-gallon MJB Coffee can, a Prince Albert Crimp Cut Pipe and Cigarette Tobacco can, a J. R. Reynolds Tobacco can, Atlas Strong Shoulder jars, wash tubs, a handmade rake, several five-gallon cans, wooden spoons, tin dishes, a frying pan, and wooden crates. A possible ground cache about 4 feet square was found near the cabin and was lined with logs but overgrown with brush and moss.

This site may be important in archeologically documenting historic occupation of this area of Alaska.

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No This should be determined by a recreation technician.
17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

This site should be archeologically test excavated to determine its significance, if any, and local accounts regarding the cabin gathered before any judgment be made regarding preservation and/or development.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

GPO 840-241

FIELD SURVEY #58

Location: Fig. 51:58

Description: An isolated find of two wooden artifacts was located about one mile downstream from the mouth of Mission Creek along the left limit of the Yukon River. One piece was a club-like object made of wood and measured about 1-1/2 feet long with a rounded handle and a larger rounded upper portion nearly 3 inches in diameter which extended about two-thirds the total length of the object. The other object was a wooden wedge about 1 foot long, 5 inches wide, and 3 inches thick at the thicker end.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: None

Present Condition and Use: The two items appeared in excellent condition.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 19 (17)

FIELD SURVEY #59

Location: Fig. 51:59

Description: This locality consists of an area along the left limit of the Yukon River about one mile downstream from the mouth of Mission Creek where numerous birch trees had been stripped of bark and a trap set was found. Over twenty trees had been stripped for sheets of bark.

The trap set consisted of a spruce log which had been set at an angle and attached to a spruce tree about three feet above the ground. A No. 1 trap was resting on the end of the log and a squirrel was caught in the trap. Hanging above the trap was a piece of fish skin and bird feathers and a marker of orange flagging tape. This set was in a relatively open area along a trail.

Cultural Affiliation: Athapaskan Indian and Unknown

Interpretation: Birch bark was traditionally stripped from trees by Athapaskan Indians throughout the north. This practice continues to this day as birch bark is collected for the manufacture of such items as baskets, trays, cradles, and a variety of containers.

The trap set was probably intended for the trapping of marten. It has been reported that northern trappers of the Black River area in Alaska would set No. 2 traps for marten in hilly areas along a trail about every 100 yards (Nelson 1973:218-220). Strong-smelling fish was often used as bait for the cubby or pole set although the Chalkyitsik people of the Black River seldom used pole sets (such as the one found on our survey) since marten "often pass them by" (Nelson 1973:222).

Present Condition and Use: The trap set was in good condition and probably could be reused in the coming seasons.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 19 (19, 20)

FIELD SURVEY #60

Location: Fig. 50:60; Fig. 51:60

Description: A trail that has been cut through this area marks the continuation of a trapline along this ridge about 400 yards south of the abandoned Wireless Station.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: This marks the route of a trapline.

Present Condition and Use: The route is in good condition and the line can be used in the coming years.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #61

Location: Fig. 50:61; Fig. 51:61

Description: A trap set was found at the top of this nearly 1000-foot ridge about 700 yards south of the Wireless Station along a trail. No trap was found with the set which was constructed of spruce logs. Next to the set were found the tibia and fibula connected to the plantigrade portion of a possible bear foot. Unidentified feathers were also scattered about. A glass bottle with a seam which terminated within 1/2 inch of the lip was also found.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: None

Present Condition and Use: The trap set does not appear recently constructed or used but could be reused.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 19 (21), Roll 20 (3)

FIELD SURVEY #62

Location: Fig. 50:62; Fig. 51:62

Description: An open birch stand about 400 feet south of the abandoned Wireless Station and on the east limit of a trail contained many trees which had been stripped of their bark. The area measured roughly 50 feet by 50 feet.

Cultural Affiliation: Athapaskan Indian

Description: Birch bark was traditionally stripped from trees by Athapaskan Indians throughout the north. This practice continues to this day as birch bark is collected for the manufacture of baskets, trays, cradles, and a variety of containers.

Present Condition and Use: Most of the good quality bark had been stripped from the trees in this area although good birch stands are nearby and will probably be used for the collecting of bark in the future.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #63

Location: Fig. 50:63; Fig. 51:63

Description: Near the top of a ridge about 1000 feet in altitude and along the west side of a trail some 600 yards south of the abandoned Wireless Station was found a sign. The sign had fallen over on the ground and consisted of three boards each 20 inches long and 3-1/2 inches wide placed horizontally and bound on the back with two vertical pieces which were screwed to the boards. The sign was then attached with wire nails to a spruce log post which measured about 8 feet in height and 4 inches in diameter. One side of the sign read "U. S. MILITARY RESERVATION SOUTH BOUNDARY" while the reverse side read simply "U. S. MIL. RES."

Cultural Affiliation: U. S. Military 1899-1911

Interpretation: This sign marks the south boundary of the Fort Egbert Military Reservation which operated from 1899-1911. It does not appear to have been moved from its original location since it was found in the location marked on an original map of the reservation as the south boundary along a trail.

Present Condition and Use: The sign has been subject to weathering during the past 70 years but has not completely decayed although the writing on the sign is barely visible on one side.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 20 (9-12)

FIELD SURVEY #64

Location: Fig. 50:64; Fig. 51:64

Description: This number was assigned to the site of P. Lundeen's abandoned farm and is also the site of a native allotment located across the Yukon River from the City of Eagle. This site fell outside of the survey area and therefore is not presented in this report. It is an extensive historic site with several large structures and outbuildings and a variety of material debris and has excellent potential for archeologically documenting historic occupation of the area.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #65

Location: Fig. 51:65

Description: A trapline marked by yellow-green flagging tape was found in this area on the right bank of the Yukon River opposite Eagle Bluff. The trapline extended along a moose trail which was located between muskeg on the east and dense willow thickets on the west which bordered the Yukon River.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: None

Present Condition and Use: This route is used as a trapline trail and is in good condition.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #66

Location: Fig. 50:66; Fig. 51:66

Description: A recently abandoned campsite was found along the right limit of Belle Isle, an island of the Yukon

River nearest the city of Eagle. This campsite was located in a large spruce forest and was marked by the presence of a drying rack and shelves which had been built between trees in an area cleared of the ground brush. Material items included five-gallon Blazo cans, a toothpicks box, mirror fragments, a notched log ladder, and a clothesline with clothespins. Several trees had been cut and other trees showed signs of dogs having been chained.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: This camp had been used recently but appears to have been temporarily abandoned. The structure remains and material items are in good condition and could be reused.

Present Condition and Use: The campsite is in good condition and although it was not used at the time of our survey it could easily be reoccupied.

Photo: None

FIELD SURVEY #67

Location: Fig. 50:67; Fig. 51:67

Description: A temporarily unoccupied campsite was found along the right limit of Belle Isle, an island of the Yukon River nearest the City of Eagle. This campsite was located in a large spruce forest. A lean-to made of timbers and a tarp and a two-person tent were found at the site along with a clothesline and chains on trees for hooking up dogs. The tent was not investigated for contents.

Cultural Affiliation: Unknown

Interpretation: This camp was in present use although its occupants were not present at the time of our survey.

Present Condition and Use: The camp was in good condition and was being used.

Photo: None

Form 6230-2
(June 1968)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

☒ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☒ Historical

ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

1. Site number		2. Type of site Cabin remains	
3. State Alaska	County	District Fortymile Resource Area	4. Map reference Eagle Quad

5. Location

This site is located on Belle Isle opposite the City of Eagle in the Yukon River. It is situated about 200 feet from the downriver end of the island and about 200 feet from the right limit of the island.

Section 30	Township T 1 South	Range R 33 East	Meridian Fairbanks
6. Land ownership status ?		7. Other site designations Field Survey #68 in Shinkwin, A.D. et al. 1978 (see below)	

8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use

Unknown, probably early twentieth century

9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance

The site is located in a dense spruce and cottonwood forest on an island of the Yukon River. The fallen cabin remains show that the logs were planed with an axe and that the structure measured about 8 feet by 10 feet. Material items included five-gallon cans, flashing, stove pipe, wire nails, and an empty can of Ridgewood World Famous Tea Made in England. Archeological field test excavations and further historic research should reveal the significance of this site which may be associated with an early twentieth century Indian or white occupation.

10. Area of occupation ca. 25 feet by 25 feet	11. Present condition Although the cabin has fallen in, it has not completely decayed and much of the original structural pieces are still present.
12. Photo numbers	

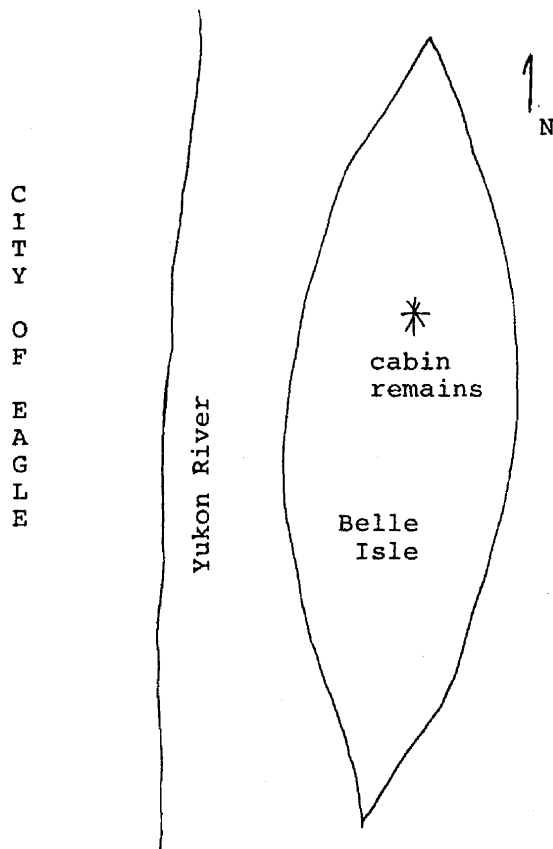
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Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978. Fort Egbert and the Eagle Historic District: Results of Archeological and Historic Research, Summer 1977. Report to BLM.

4. Recorded by Elizabeth Andrews	Date June 1977
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(continued on reverse)

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No This should be determined by a recreation technician.

17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

This site should be test excavated to determine the archeological significance, if any, of the site. Additional material items are probably present about the site and under the fallen remains and should be inventoried. This appears to be the only indication of earlier occupation of the island and further investigation would indicate whether preservation and/or development might be justified.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

☐ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☒ Historical

1. Site number

2. Type of site

Firing Pit

3. State

Alaska

County

District, Fortymile
Resource Area

4. Map reference

Eagle Quad.

5. Location

The site is located on a knob overlooking American Creek about 400 yards west of the creek and 100 yards north of a trail which extends west from the creek near a foot bridge.

Section

36

Township

T 1 South

Range

R 32 East

Meridian

Fairbanks

6. Land ownership status

?

7. Other site designations Field Survey #69 in
Shinkwin, A.D. et al. 1978 (see below)

8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use

U. S. Military 1899-1911

9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance

This site was located in a grassy area within a mixed aspen spruce forest along the west limit of American Creek. A 10-foot deep pit was found which measured about 20 feet long and 14 feet wide and appeared to have been wood-lined at one time. Some of the structural material in the pit indicated that the pieces had been fastened together with hand trimmed wood dowels and 30d nails but it is unclear what the structure originally looked like. Black construction paper was also found as were such material items as five-gallon cans, shallow wooden ammunition style crates (one nailed together with 6d wire nails and another with square cut nails), and other wood debris. Some graffiti was observed on one board in the pit and read "Fred. Fl hback." The site is shown on a map of the military reservation of Fort Egbert drawn in 1907-1908 (Hill 1908) and is labelled "Col. Fire Targets Long Range Targets."

10. Area of occupation

ca. 50 feet by 50 feet

11. Present condition

The fire target area is in a state of disrepair and it is difficult to ascertain the original construction.

12. Photo numbers 1977 Field Survey:
Roll 15 (20, 21)

13. Informants and references Hill, R. C. 1908. "Map of the Military Reservation Fort Egbert, Alaska." On file at the Alaska Resources Library, Anchorage.

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4. Recorded by to BLM.

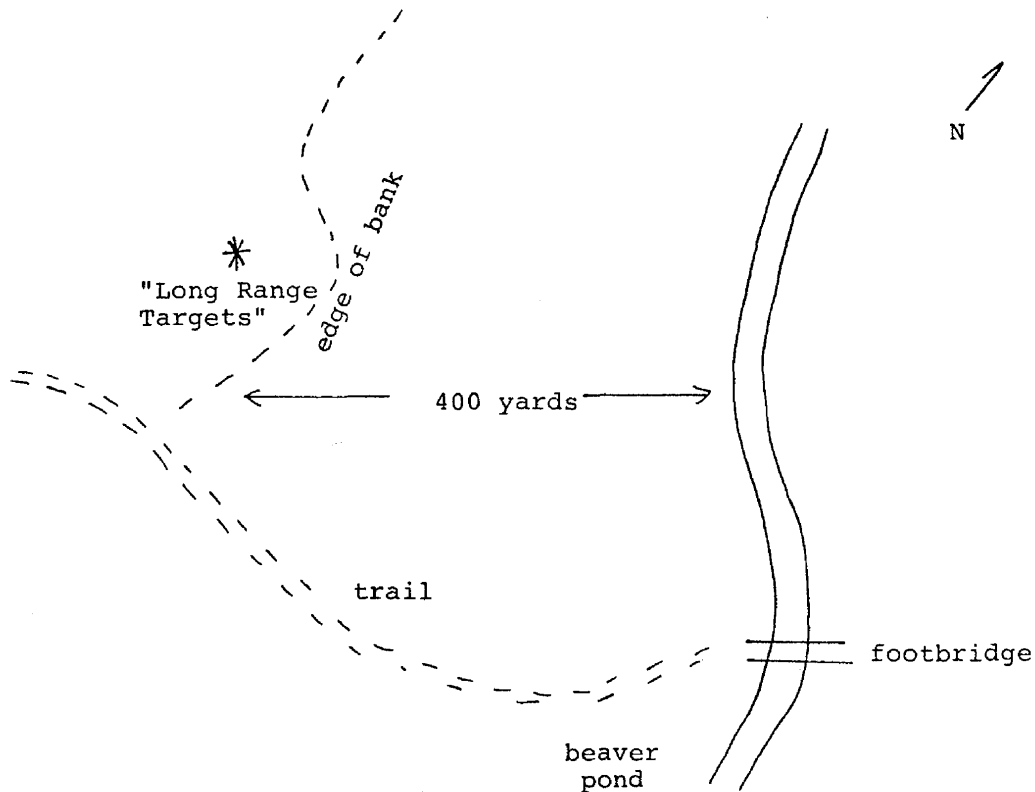
Elizabeth Andrews and Gary Selinger

Date

May 1977

(continued on reverse)

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No This should be determined by a recreation technician.
17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

If BLM develops Fort Egbert with hiking trails for the tourist, this site might serve to indicate that long range target practice was included among the soldiers' activities.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

GPO 640-241

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

☒ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☒ Historical

1. Site number		2. Type of site House or cabin pit	
3. State Alaska	County	District Fortymile Resource Area	4. Map reference Eagle Quad.

5. Location

The site of a cabin or house was found about 400 feet west of Building 14 of Fort Egbert on the north side of a narrow road which runs between that building and the Taylor Highway.

Section 36	Township T 1 South	Range R 32 East	Meridian Fairbanks
6. Land ownership status BLM		7. Other site designations Field Survey #70 in Shinkwin, A.D. et al. 1978 (see below)	

8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use
Unknown, probably early twentieth century

9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance

This site is marked by a depression next to a currently used road. The depression measures 25 feet (north/south axis) by 33 feet with a ditch running along the outside of the north and east walls. Heavy wood planks were found in the ground surface and probably are the remains of the floor. The only other remains observed were metal iron sheets and a notched pole near a large spruce tree which had grown in the northwest corner of the depression and appeared to be populated by tree squirrels. Most of the remains were much decayed and the site has probably been disturbed by the removal of the superstructure. Archeological test excavations may indicate whether this site could make a contribution to our knowledge of early historic occupations in the area and whether or not this structure may have been related to activities at Fort Egbert.

10. Area of occupation ca. 50 feet by 50 feet	11. Present condition The site is disturbed by the activity of squirrels in one corner and the wood remains are in a very decayed state.
12. Photo numbers 1977 Field Survey: Roll 5 (8, 9)	

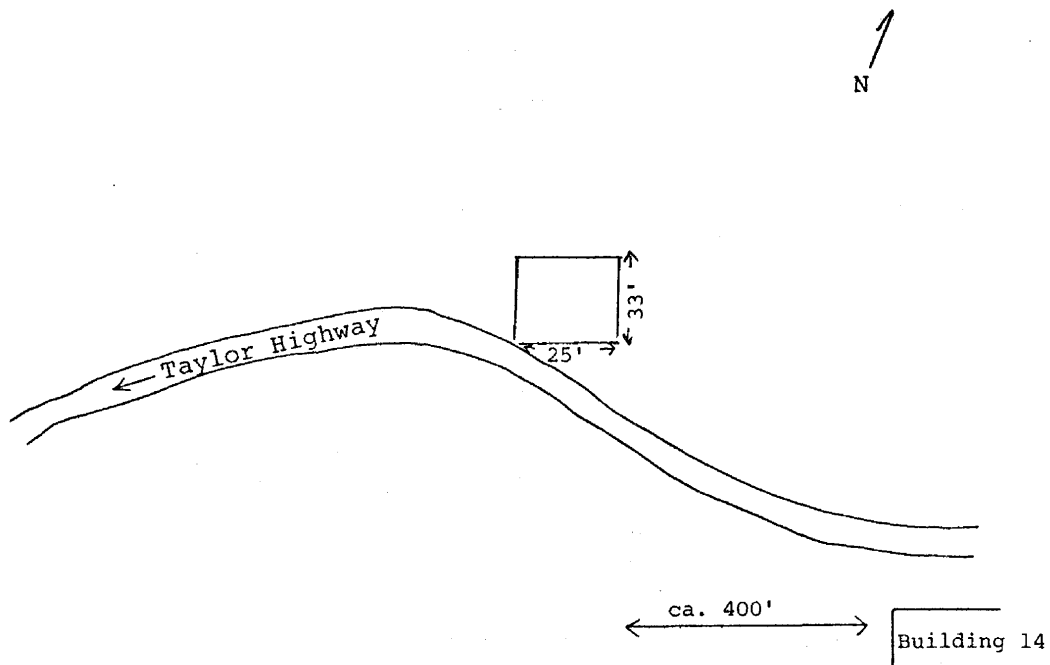
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4. Recorded by Elizabeth Andrews and Marti Zimmerman	Date May 1977
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(continued on reverse)

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☒ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

Archeological test excavations should be undertaken to determine the significance, if any, of the site before any judgment be made regarding preservation and/or development.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

☒ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☒ Historical

1. Site number

2. Type of site

House or cabin pit

3. State

County

District

Fortymile

4. Map reference

Alaska

Resource Area

Eagle Quad.

5. Location

The site of a cabin or house was found about 450 feet west of Building 14 at Fort Egbert on the north side of a narrow road which runs between that building and the Taylor Highway.

Section

Township

Range

Meridian

36

T 1 South

R 32 East

Fairbanks

6. Land ownership status

?

7. Other site designations Field Survey #71 in Shinkwin, A.D. et al. 1978 (see below)

8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use

Unknown, probably early twentieth century

9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance

This site is marked by a depression next to a currently used road and excavated into a natural slope. The southern half of the pit has been obliterated by the presence of the road and the remaining depression measures 37 feet (east/west axis) by 15 feet. Floor planking was observed in the ground surface as were 12d, 16d, and 30d wire nails. A stringer for the floor was also observed. The only material items in the depression were a gray-blue enamel wash basin and a round Yukon-type stove. Archeological test excavations should indicate whether this site could make a contribution to our knowledge of early historic occupations in the area and whether or not this structure may have been related to activities at Fort Egbert.

10. Area of occupation

ca. 50 feet by 50 feet

11. Present condition

Half of the remains have been obliterated by the construction of the adjacent road. The wood remains are in an advanced state of decay.

12. Photo numbers 1977 Field Survey:
Roll 5 (10, 11)

13. Informants and references

Shinkwin, A. D. et al. 1978. Fort Egbert and the Eagle Historic District: Results of Archeological and Historic Research, Summer 1977. Report to BLM.

4. Recorded by

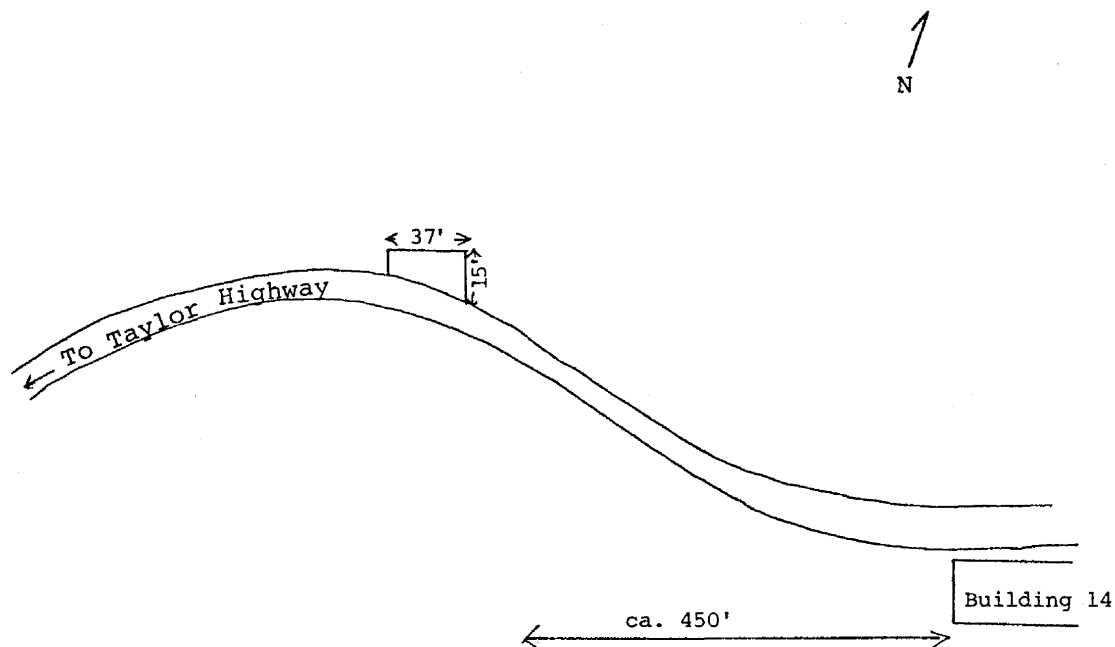
Elizabeth Andrews and Marti Zimmerman

Date

May 1977

(continued on reverse)

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☒ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

Archeological test excavations should be undertaken to determine the significance, if any, of the site before any judgment be made regarding preservation and/or development.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

GPO 640-241

FIELD SURVEY #72

Location: Fig. 50:72; Fig. 51:72

Description: About 400 feet north of the abandoned Fort Egbert Target Range was found the site of a recently abandoned sawmill. A road to the property extends from a road to American Creek from Fort Egbert core area. About 1/4 mile from this turnoff a metal gate with a lock was observed which blocked the road to vehicular traffic. Within an area of about 200 feet by 300 feet was found a sawmill which appeared to be in operating condition, about fifty fifty-five gallon drums, numerous five-gallon cans, a trailer, a dump truck, a pickup with a license plate which read Alaska Road Commission, War Dept. as well as 1960 Alaska license plates, a stripped down Ford truck, a flat bed truck, stove pipe, decayed plywood, and lumber. No dwelling or other structures were found in the area.

Cultural Affiliation: Contemporary Rural American

Interpretation: This site is part of the private property of a local resident in the City of Eagle and appears to have been devoted to a private business.

Present Condition and Use: The sawmill does not appear to be used at present although it is in good condition.

Photo: 1977 Field Survey: Roll 14 (18-21)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

☒ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☒ Historical

ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

1. Site number	2. Type of site Sawmill
3. State Alaska	County
District Fortymile Resource Area	4. Map reference Eagle Quad.

5. Location

The site is located just south of a slough near the mouth of Mission Creek about 1/4 mile downriver from the City of Eagle.

Section 30	Township T 1 South	Range R 33 East	Meridian Fairbanks
6. Land ownership status ?		7. Other site designations Field Survey #73 in Shinkwin, A.D. et al. 1978 (see below)	

8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use

Euro-American, early twentieth century

9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance

This site is marked by the presence of a large deposit of sawdust which extends 100 feet along a road from the city toward Mission Creek. It further extends 70 feet to the west of the road and is 3 feet deep. There were no material items or structural remains found in the area nor were any features observed which might indicate the original location of a structure. The area is grown over with alder, rose bushes, and large spruce trees. This site is shown on original maps of Fort Egbert as C.M. Johansen's sawmill. Documents in the Quartermaster's Records for Fort Egbert in the National Archives indicated that by 1906 Johansen had abandoned the site and moved his machinery to Fairbanks although three one-story buildings (included one which measured 32 feet by 80 feet) remained. Several recommendations were made by the military to purchase the site between 1906 and 1908 although no appropriation was made by Congress as late as 1910. Purchase of the site was not included in 1911 estimates although no information was found in the records which indicated that the military ever purchased it. The sawmill often supplied the fort with milled lumber.

10. Area of occupation Original maps of the area show that Johansen owned 18.30 acres.

12. Photo numbers C.S. Farnsworth Collection, University of Alaska Archives

11. Present condition

The site is disturbed by the present road which apparently obliterated part of the site. Natural growth may have disguised some features of the site.

13. Informants and references Hill, R. C. 1908. "Map of the Military Reservation Fort Egbert, Alaska." On file at the Alaska Resources Library, Anchorage.

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4. Recorded by BLM.

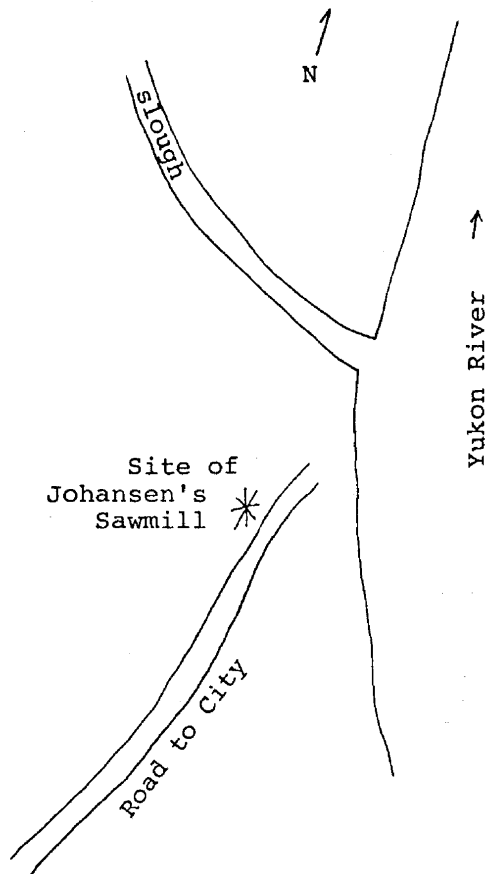
Elizabeth Andrews and Marti Zimmerman

Date

May 1977

(continued on reverse)

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No This should be determined by a recreation technician.

17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

Archeological test excavations should be conducted to determine if any remains of the sawmill structures can be found and the contribution, if any, that archeology might make.

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

GPO 840-241

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ANTIQUITIES SITE INVENTORY

☐ Archeological ☐ Paleontological ☒ Historical

1. Site number

2. Type of site

Historic route

3. State

Alaska

County

District Fortymile
Resource Area

4. Map reference

Eagle and Tanacross Quads.

5. Location

The Taylor Highway extends 162 miles between Tetlin Junction on the Alaska Highway to Eagle on the Yukon River.

Section	Township	Range	Meridian
cross-cuts several sections and townships on the Eagle and Tanacross quad maps.			

6. Land ownership status
State of Alaska

7. Other site designations Field Survey #74 in Shinkwin, A.D. et al. 1978 (see below)

8. Cultural affiliation; Geologic Age and/or formation; dates of use
United States, twentieth century

9. Site description, position, surrounding terrain, and importance

The Taylor Highway extends 162 miles crossing the low wooded hills and treeless summits of the Yukon-Tanana Upland. The eastern portion of the Taylor Highway coincides with the early twentieth century Alaska Road Commission Road to the Fortymile River and was shown as early as 1908 on a map of the military reservation of Fort Egbert at Eagle. Construction of the more extensive and well-graded Taylor Highway began in the late 1940's and was completed in the early 1950's. The Taylor Highway has served and continues to serve as an important communication link although it also functioned as a transportation and commerce route and increasingly contributes to tourism in the Fortymile area. Significant, too, has been its adverse impact on the Fortymile caribou herd by providing easy access for large numbers of hunters to the herd during its annual migration. As a result the herd has suffered drastic declines during the past twenty years.

10. Area of occupation
162 linear miles

11. Present condition
The road is maintained during the summer by the Alaska State Highway Department and is usually in good condition as a dirt road.

12. Photo numbers

13. Informants and references Hill; R.C. 1908 Map of the Military Reservation of Fort Egbert.

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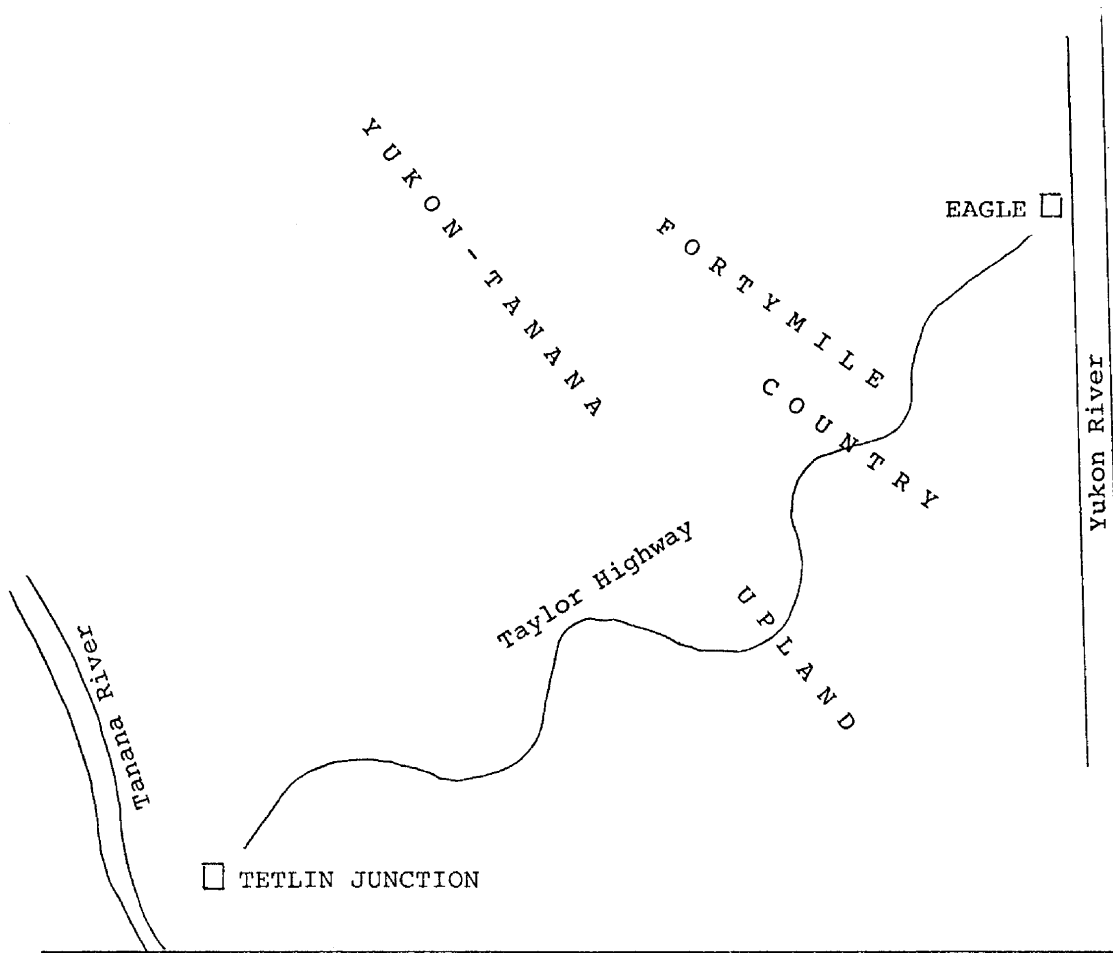
Elizabeth Andrews

Date

June 1977

(continued on reverse)

15. Sketch and/or remarks



EVALUATION

16. Does site have recreation value? ☒ Yes ☐ No If "yes," has the Recreation Inventory Form 6110-3 been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No unknown

17. Does site have sufficient value to justify preservation and/or development? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," specify type of preservation or development.

N/A

18. Reviewed by (Signature of District Manager)

Date

GPO 840-241

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n.d.c Blueprint. First Floor Plan of Post Exchange,
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